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WITCHBLADE
image
6
DEC
DIGITAL EDITION
US
TOP COW UNIVERSE

WITCHBLADE®

created by **Marc Silvestri**, **David Wohl**, **Brian Haberlin** & **Michael Turner**

New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's life was forever fractured by her father's murder. Cold, cunning, and hellbent on revenge, Sara now stalks a vicious criminal cabal beneath the city, where an ancient power collides and transforms her into something wild, magnificent, and beyond her darkest imaginings.

Previously... Still reeling from the warehouse massacre where she first came into contact with the Witchblade, Sara explores the mystical gauntlet's power, and the pleasure using it can bring. The mysterious warrior Ian Nottingham comes to guide Sara in the ways of the ancient weapon, revealing more layers to the supernatural world Sara has entered. Along the way, Sara delves deeper into the mystery behind the cover-up that destroyed her father and the supernatural forces around her and their part in her father's death. The trail leads her to Paul Pisano, a former associate of her father, who died years ago. Sara's world is turned upside down when Ian drags the very much alive Pisano and throws him at Sara's feet.

"Don't Smoke In Bed"

Written by **Marguerite Bennett**
Line art by **Giuseppe Cafaro**
Colors by **Arif Prianto**
Letters by **Troy Peteri**
Edits by **Marc Silvestri**, **Matt Hawkins**
and **Elena Salcedo**

Cover A: **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**
Cover B: **Joshua George** and **John Starr**

For Top Cow Productions, Inc.
Marc Silvestri - CEO
Matt Hawkins - President & COO
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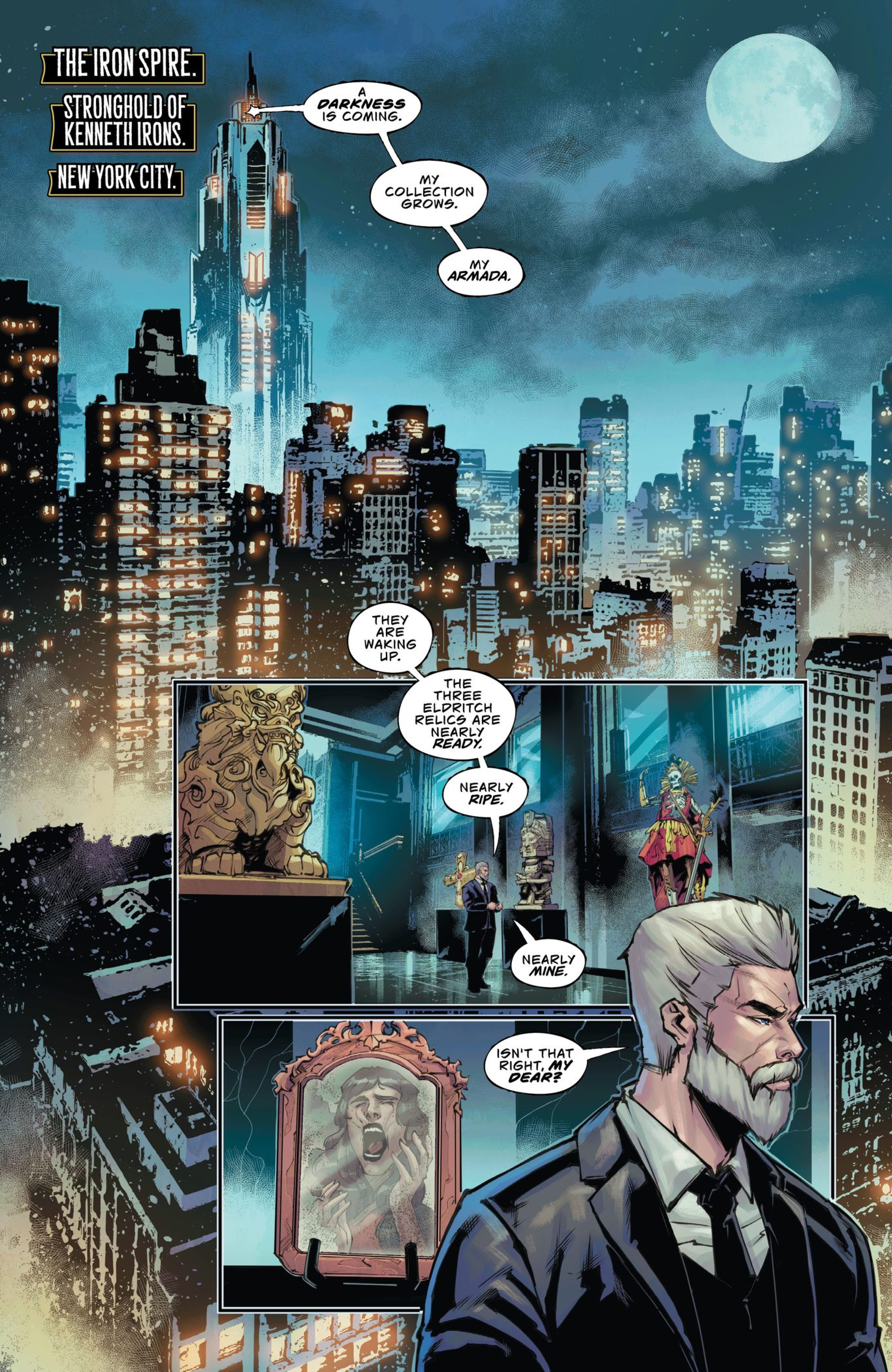
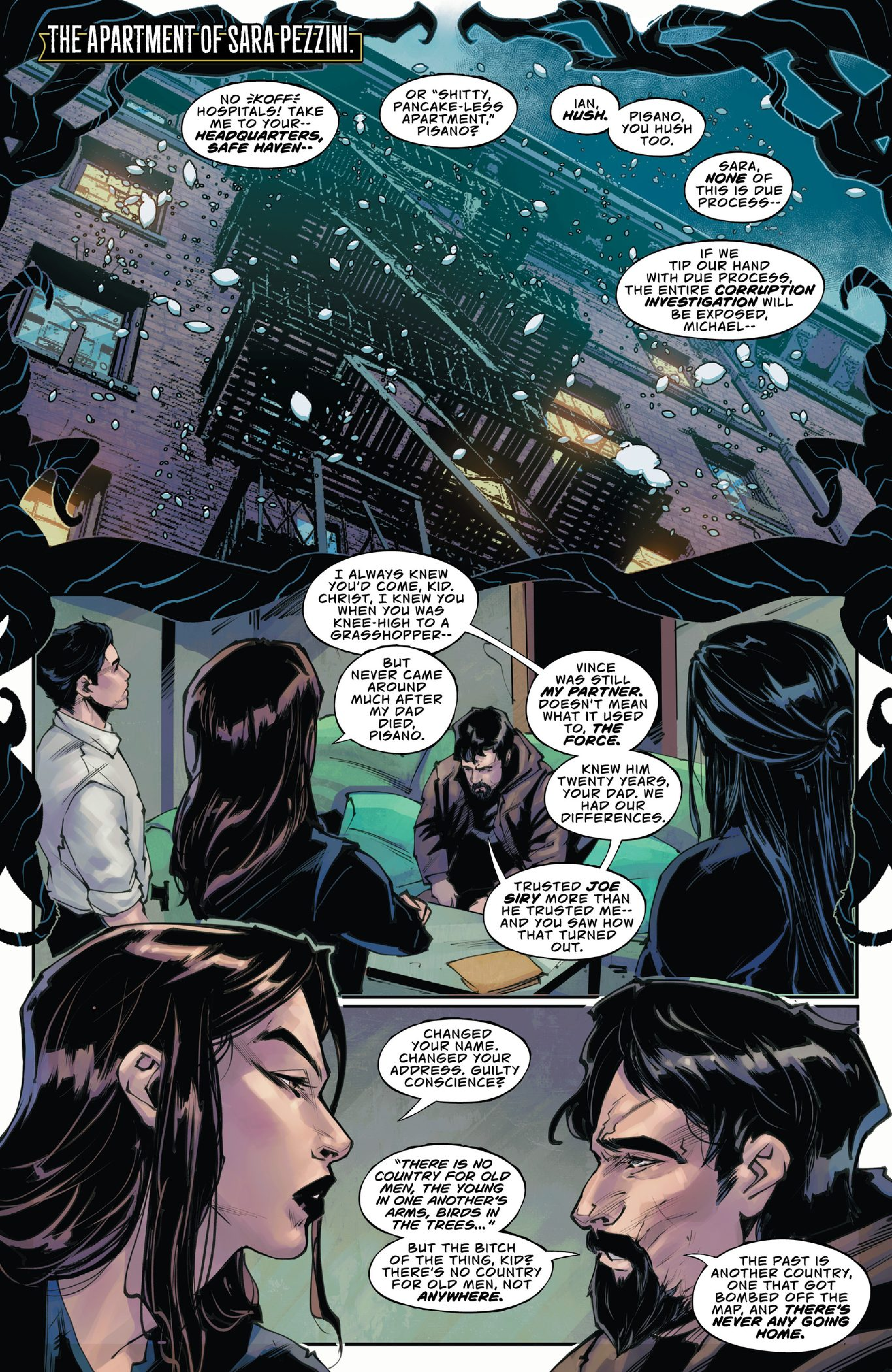
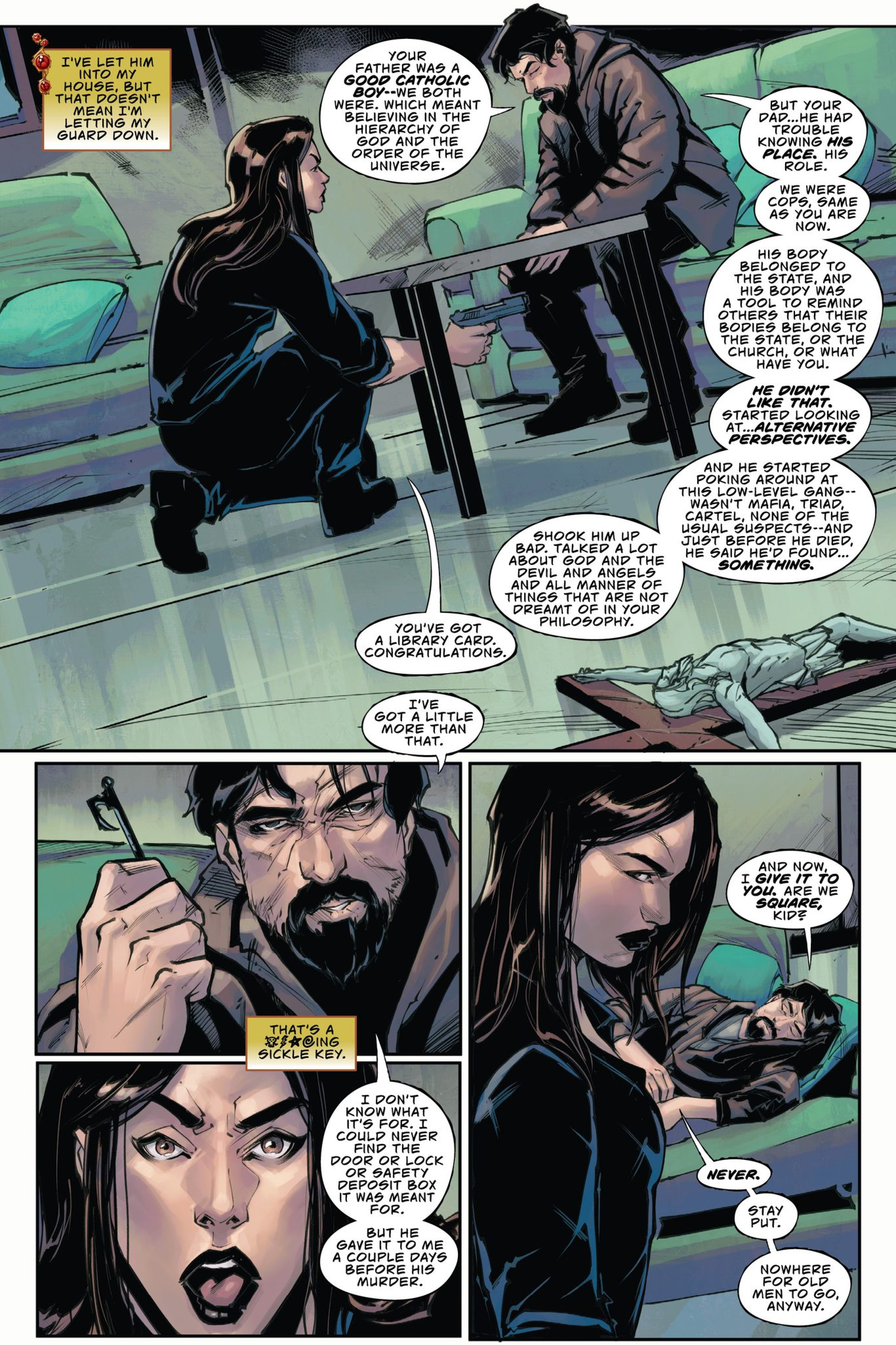
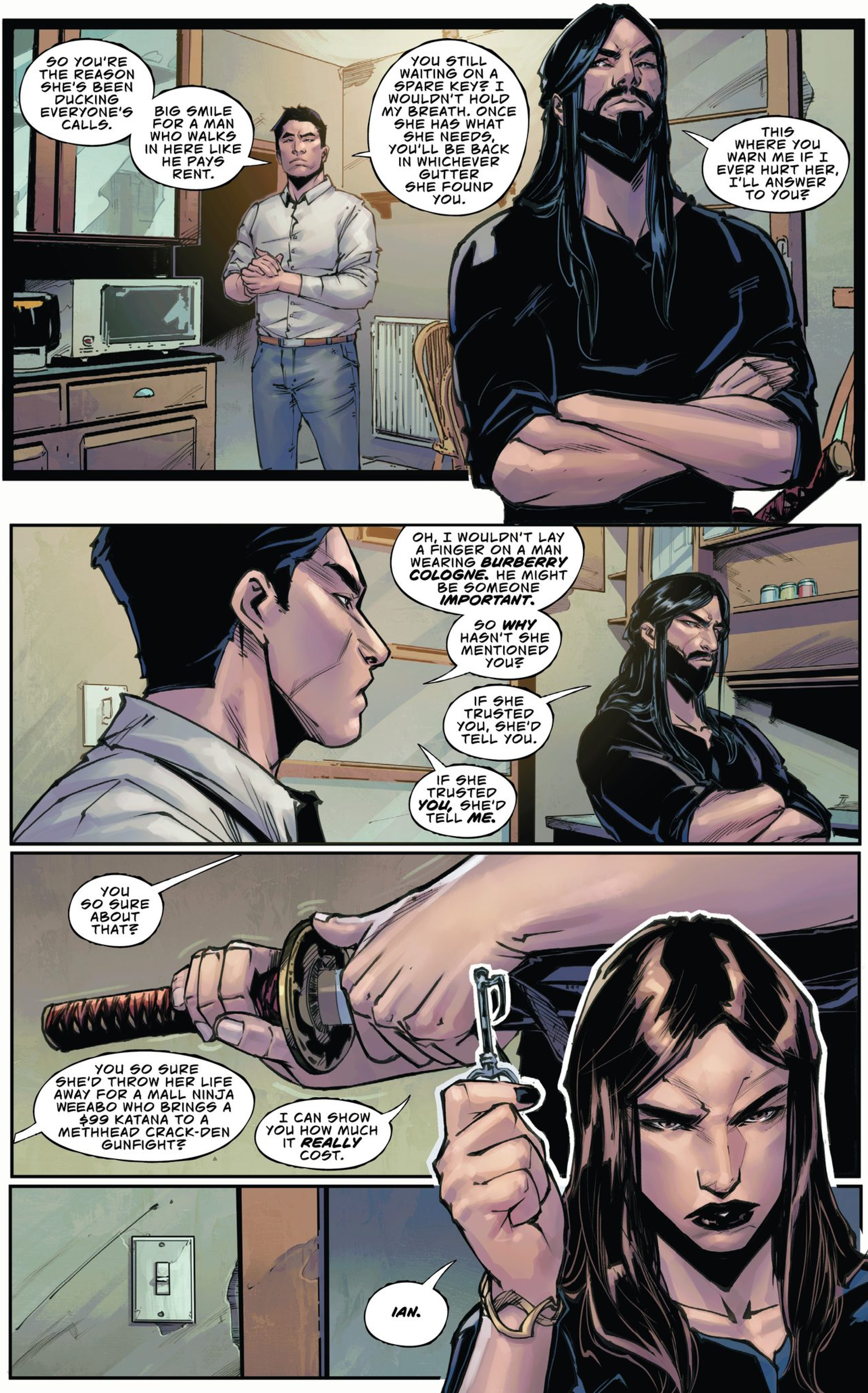
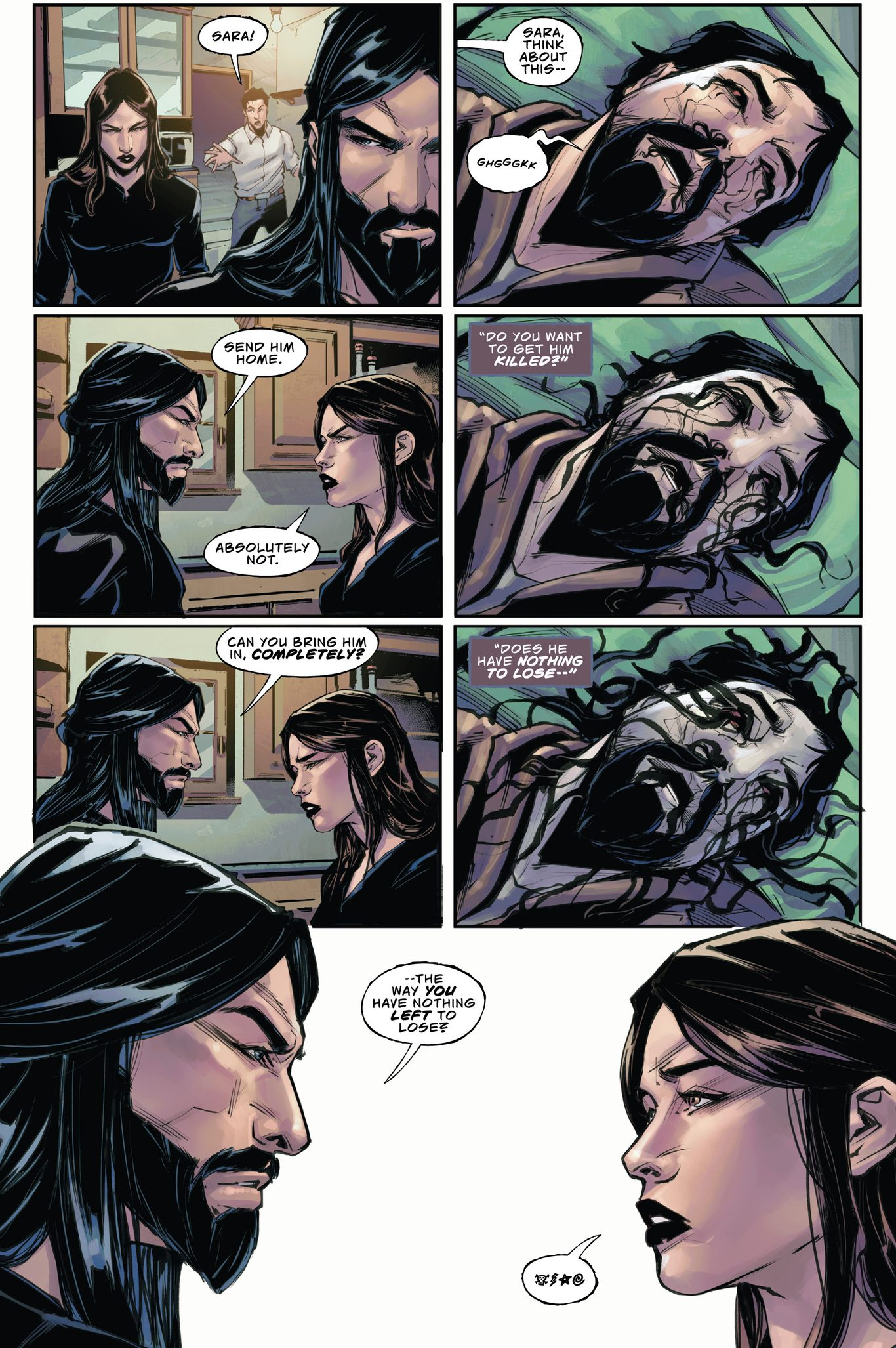
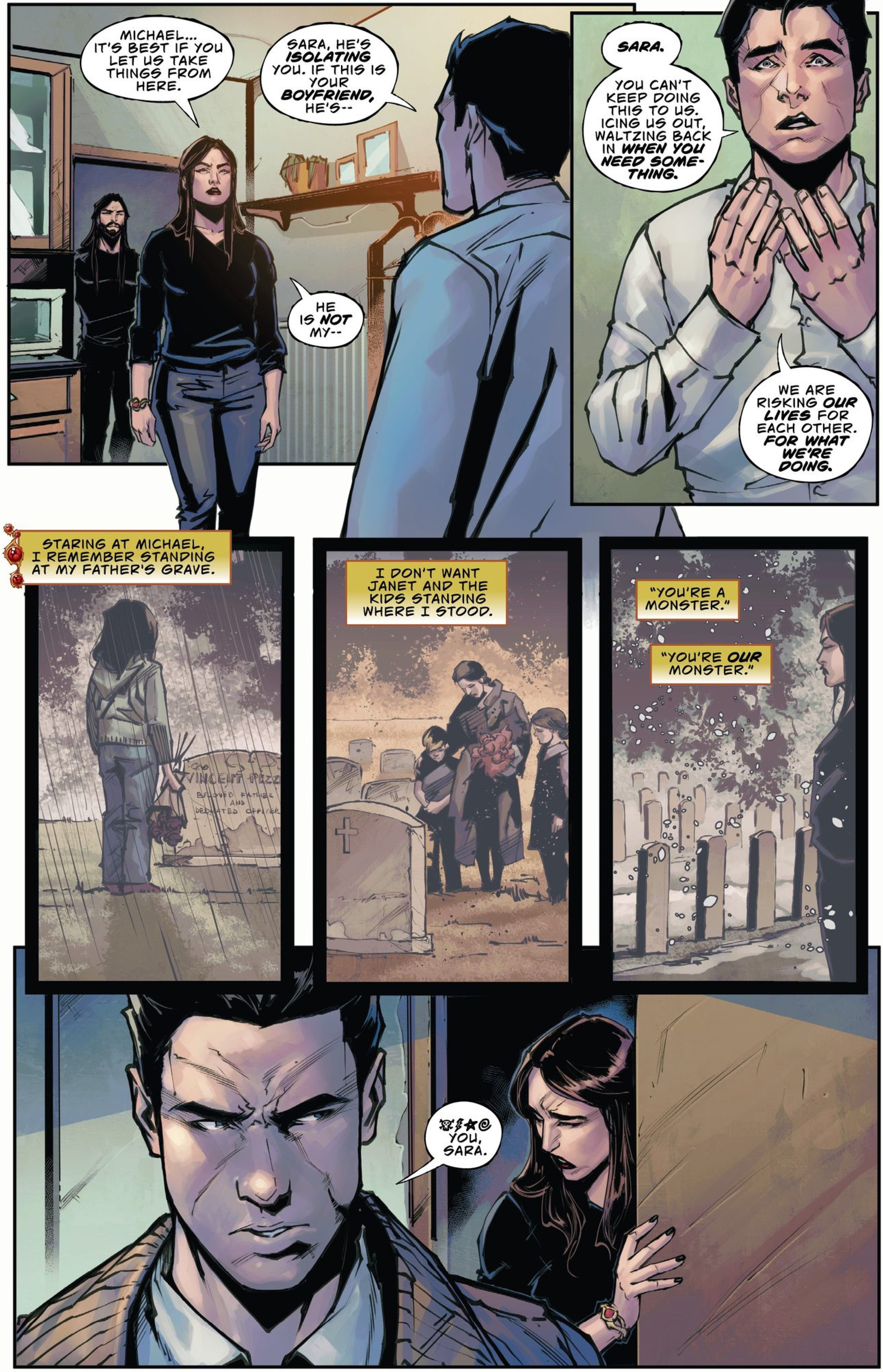

THE IRON SPIRE.
STRONGHOLD OF KENNETH IRONS.
NEW YORK CITY.
A *DARKNESS* IS COMING.
MY COLLECTION GROWS.
MY *ARMADA.*
THEY ARE WAKING UP.
THE THREE ELDRITCH RELICS ARE NEARLY *READY.*
NEARLY *RIPE.*
NEARLY *MINE.*
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, *MY DEAR?*

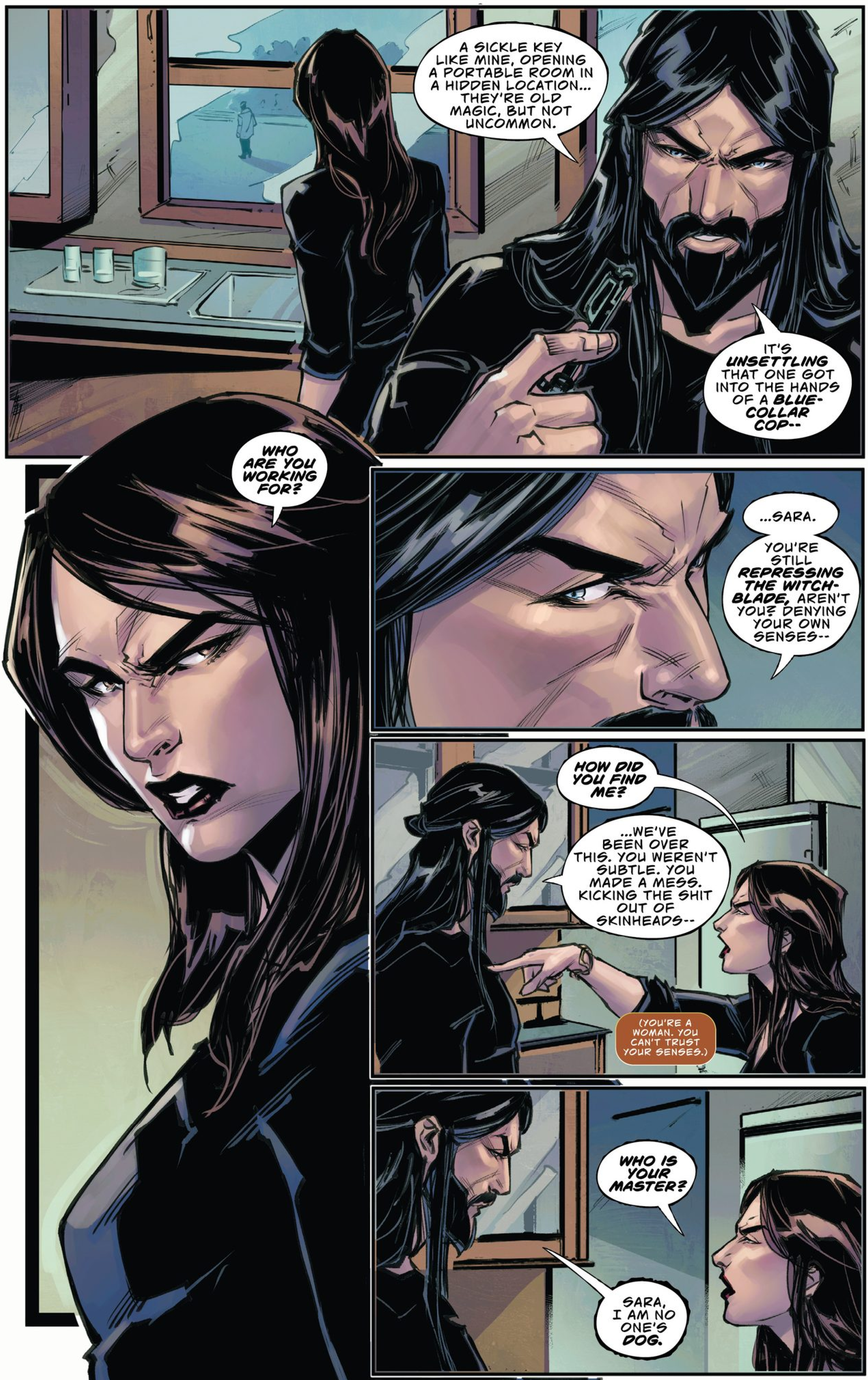

THE APARTMENT OF SARA PEZZINI.
NO *KOFF* HOSPITALS! TAKE ME TO YOUR-- **HEADQUARTERS, SAFE HAVEN--**
OR "SHITTY, PANCAKE-LESS APARTMENT," PISANO?
IAN, **HUSH.**
PISANO, YOU HUSH TOO.
SARA, **NONE** OF THIS IS DUE PROCESS--
IF WE TIP OUR HAND WITH DUE PROCESS, THE ENTIRE **CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION** WILL BE EXPOSED, MICHAEL--
I ALWAYS KNEW YOU'D COME, KID. CHRIST, I KNEW YOU WHEN YOU WAS KNEE-HIGH TO A GRASSHOPPER--
BUT NEVER CAME AROUND MUCH AFTER MY DAD DIED, PISANO.
VINCE WAS STILL **MY PARTNER.** DOESN'T MEAN WHAT IT USED TO, **THE FORCE.**
KNEW HIM TWENTY YEARS, YOUR DAD. WE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES.
TRUSTED **JOE SIRY** MORE THAN HE TRUSTED ME-- AND YOU SAW HOW THAT TURNED OUT.
CHANGED YOUR NAME. CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS. GUILTY CONSCIENCE?
"THERE IS NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN, THE YOUNG IN ONE ANOTHER'S ARMS, BIRDS IN THE TREES..."
BUT THE BITCH OF THE THING, KID? THERE'S NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN, NOT **ANYWHERE.**
THE PAST IS ANOTHER COUNTRY, ONE THAT GOT BOMBED OFF THE MAP, AND **THERE'S NEVER ANY GOING HOME.**

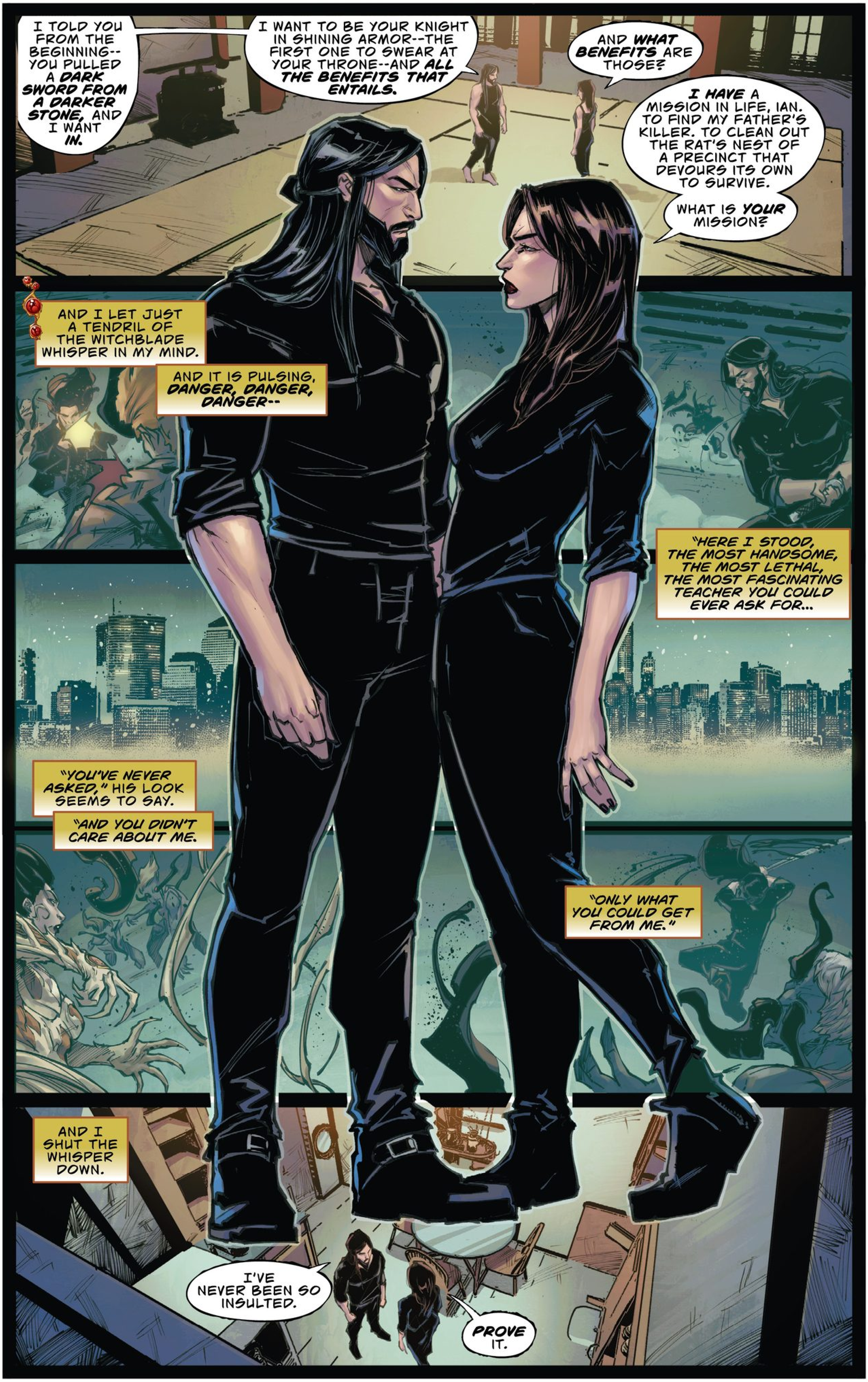

I'VE LET HIM INTO MY HOUSE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M LETTING MY GUARD DOWN.
YOUR FATHER WAS A **GOOD CATHOLIC BOY**--WE BOTH WERE. WHICH MEANT BELIEVING IN THE HIERARCHY OF GOD AND THE ORDER OF THE UNIVERSE.
BUT YOUR DAD...HE HAD TROUBLE KNOWING **HIS PLACE.** HIS ROLE.
WE WERE COPS, SAME AS YOU ARE NOW.
HIS BODY BELONGED TO THE STATE, AND HIS BODY WAS A TOOL TO REMIND OTHERS THAT THEIR BODIES BELONG TO THE STATE, OR THE CHURCH, OR WHAT HAVE YOU.
HE DIDN'T LIKE THAT. STARTED LOOKING AT...**ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES.**
AND HE STARTED POKING AROUND AT THIS LOW-LEVEL GANG--WASN'T MAFIA, TRIAD, CARTEL, NONE OF THE USUAL SUSPECTS--AND JUST BEFORE HE DIED, HE SAID HE'D FOUND... **SOMETHING.**
SHOOK HIM UP BAD. TALKED A LOT ABOUT GOD AND THE DEVIL AND ANGELS AND ALL MANNER OF THINGS THAT ARE NOT DREAMT OF IN YOUR PHILOSOPHY.
YOU'VE GOT A LIBRARY CARD. CONGRATULATIONS.
I'VE GOT A LITTLE MORE THAN THAT.
THAT'S A ☠⚡★@ING SICKLE KEY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S FOR. I COULD NEVER FIND THE DOOR OR LOCK OR SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX IT WAS MEANT FOR.
BUT HE GAVE IT TO ME A COUPLE DAYS BEFORE HIS MURDER.
AND NOW, I **GIVE IT TO YOU.** ARE WE **SQUARE,** KID?
NEVER.
STAY PUT.
NOWHERE FOR OLD MEN TO GO, ANYWAY.

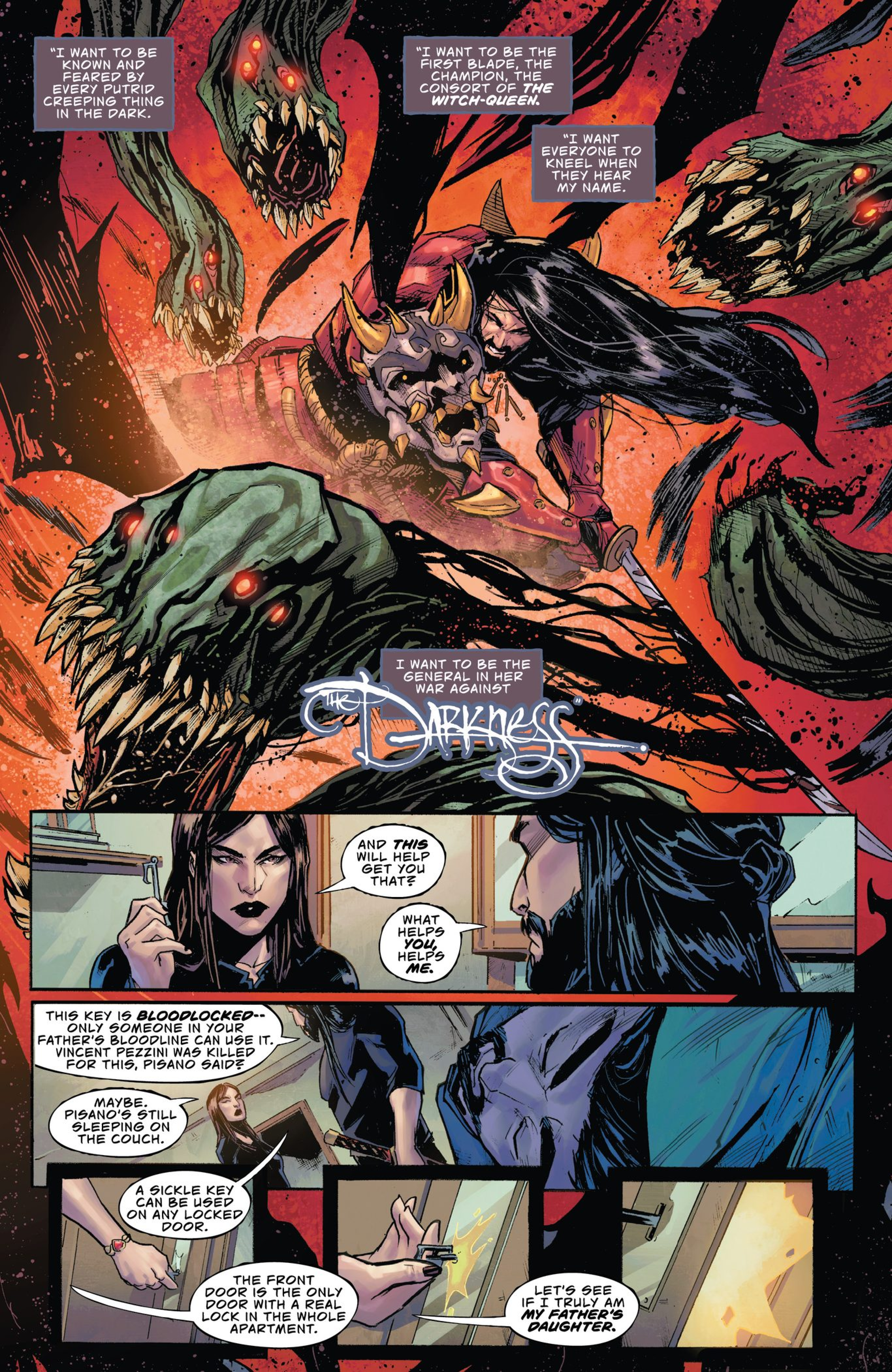

SO YOU'RE THE REASON SHE'S BEEN DUCKING EVERYONE'S CALLS.
BIG SMILE FOR A MAN WHO WALKS IN HERE LIKE HE PAYS RENT.
YOU STILL WAITING ON A SPARE KEY? I WOULDN'T HOLD MY BREATH. ONCE SHE HAS WHAT SHE NEEDS, YOU'LL BE BACK IN WHICHEVER GUTTER SHE FOUND YOU.
THIS WHERE YOU WARN ME IF I EVER HURT HER, I'LL ANSWER TO YOU?
OH, I WOULDN'T LAY A FINGER ON A MAN WEARING **BURBERRY COLOGNE.** HE MIGHT BE SOMEONE ***IMPORTANT.***
SO ***WHY*** HASN'T SHE MENTIONED YOU?
IF SHE TRUSTED YOU, SHE'D TELL YOU.
IF SHE TRUSTED ***YOU,*** SHE'D TELL ***ME.***
YOU SO SURE ABOUT THAT?
YOU SO SURE SHE'D THROW HER LIFE AWAY FOR A MALL NINJA WEEABO WHO BRINGS A $99 KATANA TO A METHHEAD CRACK-DEN GUNFIGHT?
I CAN SHOW YOU HOW MUCH IT ***REALLY*** COST.
IAN.

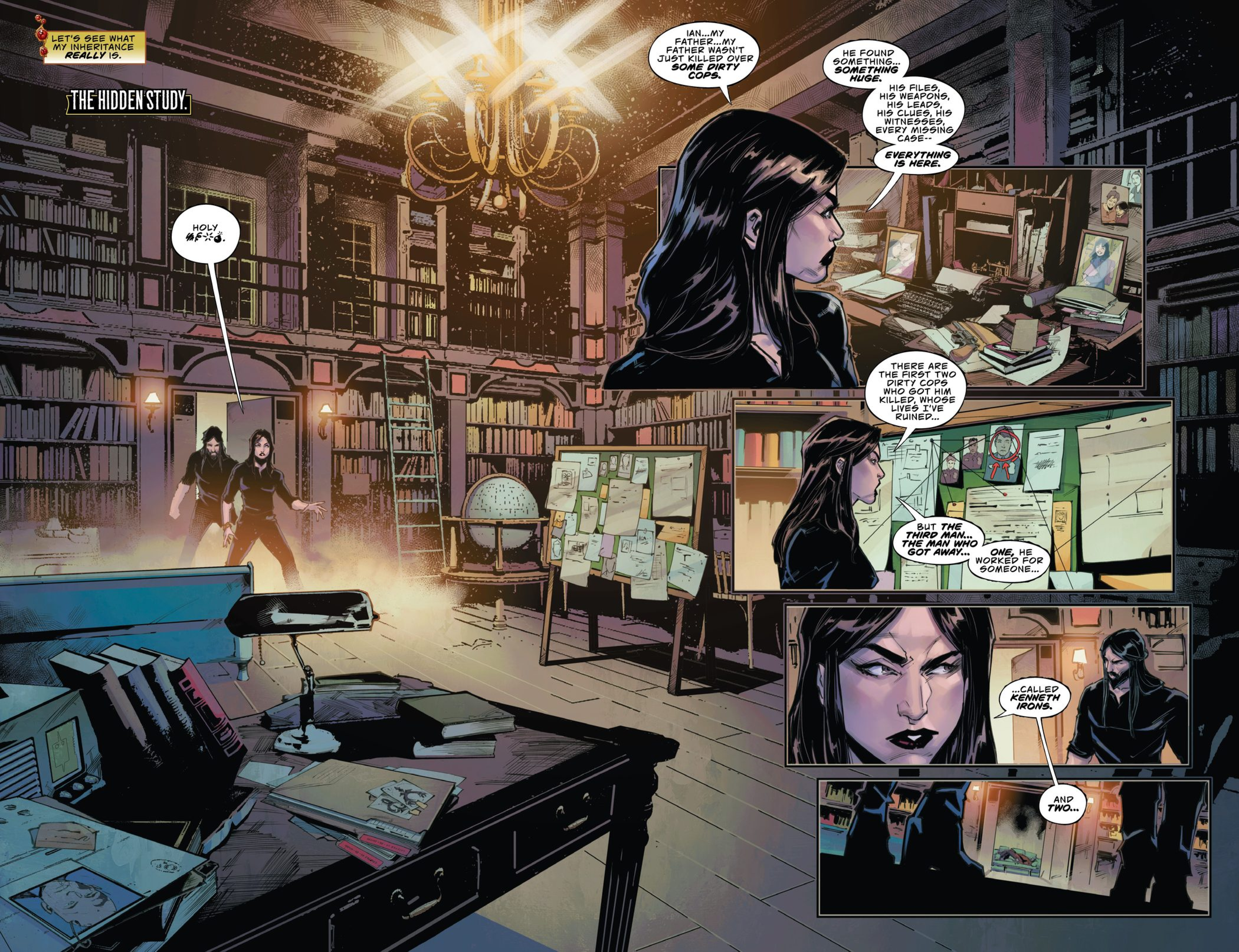

SARA!
SARA, THINK ABOUT THIS--
GHGGGKK
SEND HIM HOME.
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
"DO YOU WANT TO GET HIM *KILLED?*"
CAN YOU BRING HIM IN, *COMPLETELY?*
"DOES HE HAVE *NOTHING TO LOSE--*"
--THE WAY *YOU* HAVE NOTHING *LEFT* TO LOSE?
☠ϟ★@

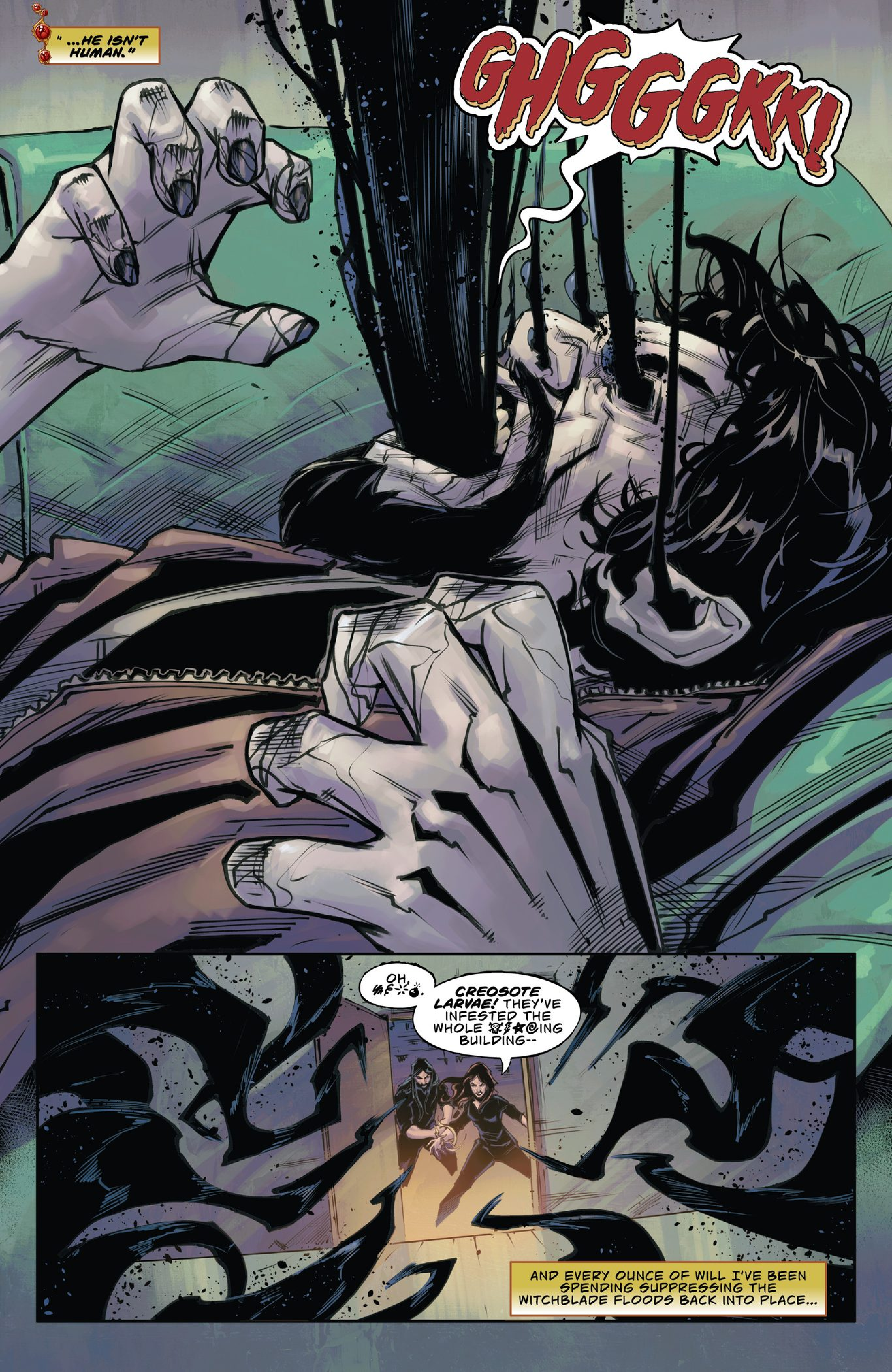

MICHAEL... IT'S BEST IF YOU LET US TAKE THINGS FROM HERE.
SARA, HE'S **ISOLATING** YOU. IF THIS IS YOUR **BOYFRIEND,** HE'S--
HE IS **NOT** MY--
SARA.
YOU CAN'T KEEP DOING THIS TO US. ICING US OUT, WALTZING BACK IN **WHEN YOU NEED SOMETHING.**
WE ARE RISKING **OUR LIVES** FOR EACH OTHER. **FOR WHAT WE'RE DOING.**
STARING AT MICHAEL, I REMEMBER STANDING AT MY FATHER'S GRAVE.
VINCENT PEZZ
BELOVED FATHER AND DEDICATED OFFICER
I DON'T WANT JANET AND THE KIDS STANDING WHERE I STOOD.
"YOU'RE A MONSTER."
"YOU'RE **OUR** MONSTER."
☠⚡★@ YOU, SARA.

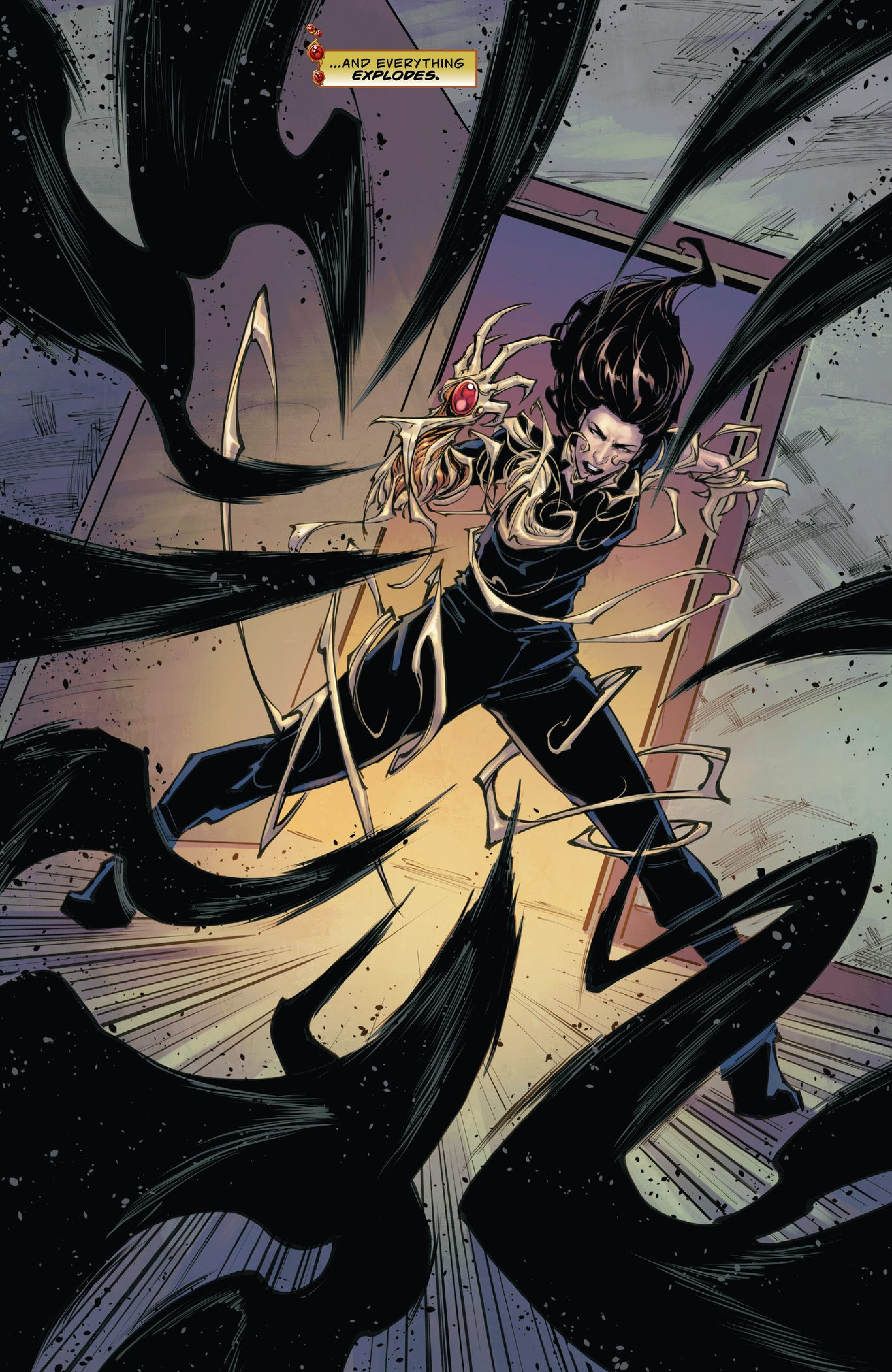

A SICKLE KEY LIKE MINE, OPENING A PORTABLE ROOM IN A HIDDEN LOCATION... THEY'RE OLD MAGIC, BUT NOT UNCOMMON.
IT'S UNSETTLING THAT ONE GOT INTO THE HANDS OF A BLUE-COLLAR COP--
WHO ARE YOU WORKING FOR?
...SARA.
YOU'RE STILL REPRESSING THE WITCH-BLADE, AREN'T YOU? DENYING YOUR OWN SENSES--
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
...WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS. YOU WEREN'T SUBTLE. YOU MADE A MESS. KICKING THE SHIT OUT OF SKINHEADS--
(YOU'RE A WOMAN. YOU CAN'T TRUST YOUR SENSES.)
WHO IS YOUR MASTER?
SARA, I AM NO ONE'S DOG.

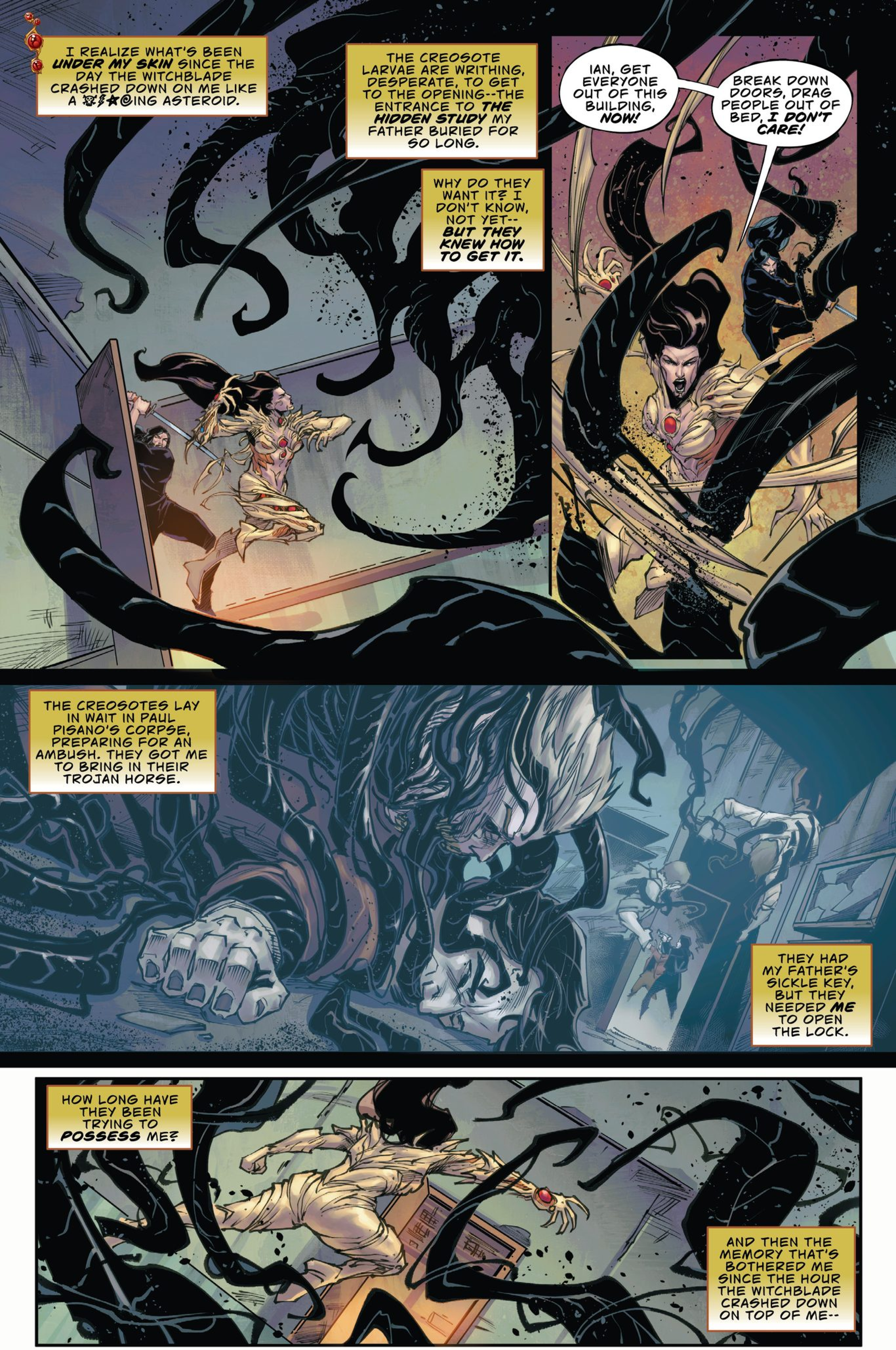

I TOLD YOU FROM THE BEGINNING-- YOU PULLED A DARK SWORD FROM A DARKER STONE, AND I WANT IN.
I WANT TO BE YOUR KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR--THE FIRST ONE TO SWEAR AT YOUR THRONE--AND ALL THE BENEFITS THAT ENTAILS.
AND WHAT BENEFITS ARE THOSE?
I HAVE A MISSION IN LIFE, IAN. TO FIND MY FATHER'S KILLER. TO CLEAN OUT THE RAT'S NEST OF A PRECINCT THAT DEVOURS ITS OWN TO SURVIVE.
WHAT IS YOUR MISSION?
AND I LET JUST A TENDRIL OF THE WITCHBLADE WHISPER IN MY MIND.
AND IT IS PULSING, DANGER, DANGER, DANGER--
"HERE I STOOD, THE MOST HANDSOME, THE MOST LETHAL, THE MOST FASCINATING TEACHER YOU COULD EVER ASK FOR...
"YOU'VE NEVER ASKED," HIS LOOK SEEMS TO SAY.
"AND YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ME.
"ONLY WHAT YOU COULD GET FROM ME."
AND I SHUT THE WHISPER DOWN.
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO INSULTED.
PROVE IT.

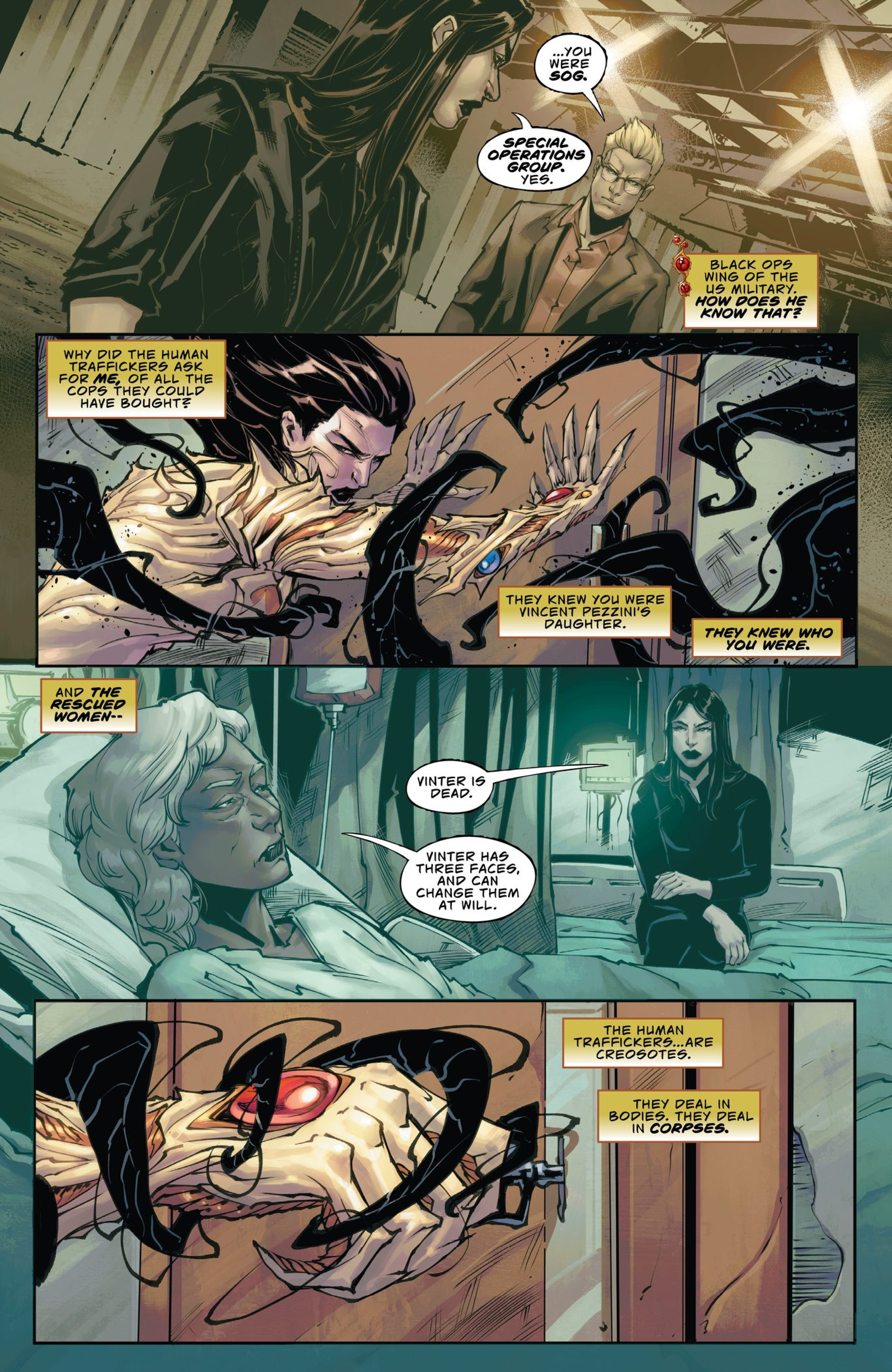

"I WANT TO BE KNOWN AND FEARED BY EVERY PUTRID CREEPING THING IN THE DARK.
"I WANT TO BE THE FIRST BLADE, THE CHAMPION, THE CONSORT OF *THE WITCH-QUEEN.*
"I WANT EVERYONE TO KNEEL WHEN THEY HEAR MY NAME.
I WANT TO BE THE GENERAL IN HER WAR AGAINST
THE DARKNESS
AND *THIS* WILL HELP GET YOU THAT?
WHAT HELPS *YOU,* HELPS *ME.*
THIS KEY IS *BLOODLOCKED*-- ONLY SOMEONE IN YOUR FATHER'S BLOODLINE CAN USE IT. VINCENT PEZZINI WAS KILLED FOR THIS, PISANO SAID?
MAYBE. PISANO'S STILL SLEEPING ON THE COUCH.
A SICKLE KEY CAN BE USED ON ANY LOCKED DOOR.
THE FRONT DOOR IS THE ONLY DOOR WITH A REAL LOCK IN THE WHOLE APARTMENT.
LET'S SEE IF I TRULY AM *MY FATHER'S DAUGHTER.*

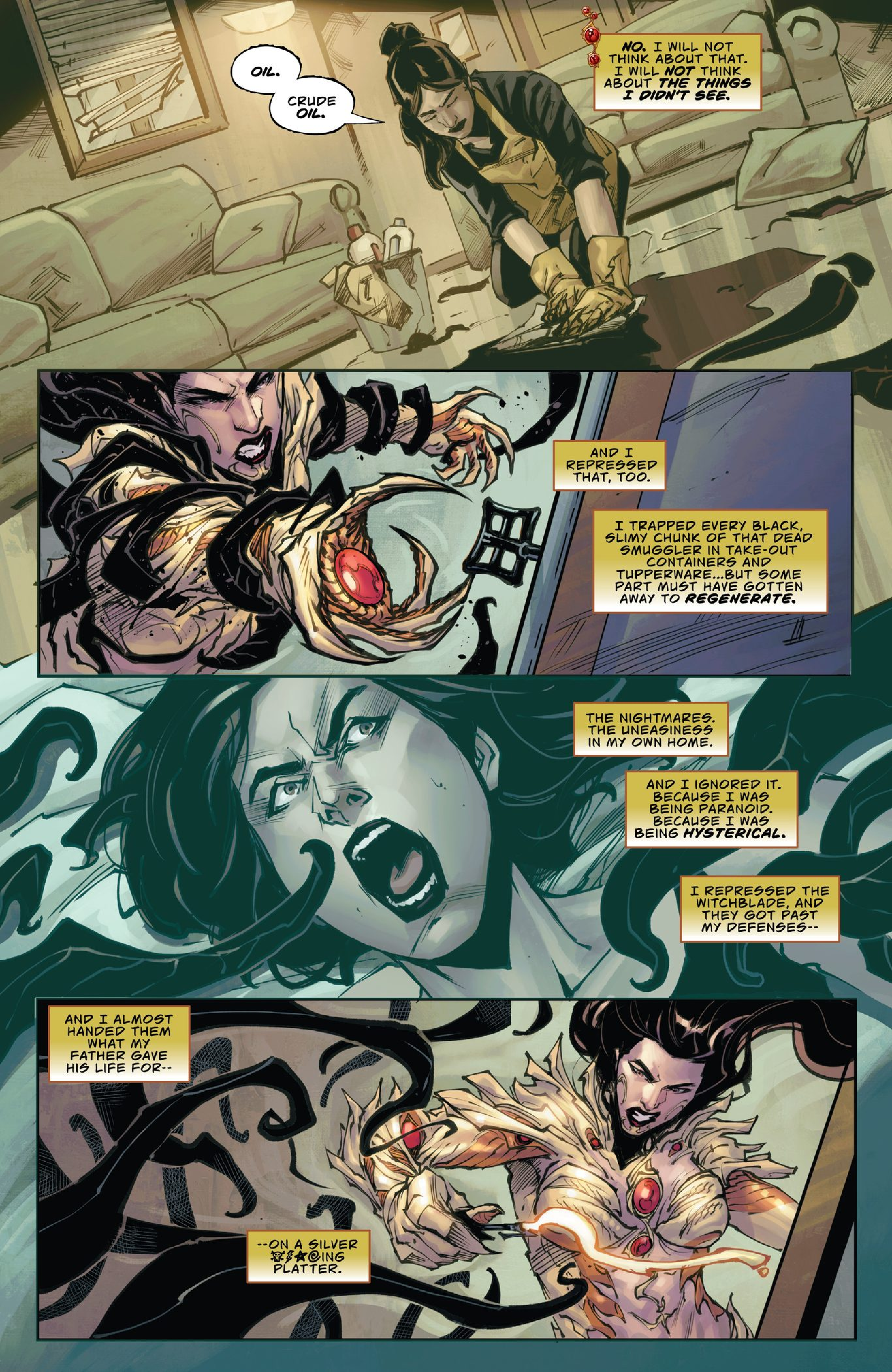

LET'S SEE WHAT MY INHERITANCE *REALLY* IS.
THE HIDDEN STUDY.
HOLY
IAN...MY FATHER...MY FATHER WASN'T JUST KILLED OVER *SOME DIRTY COPS.*
HE FOUND SOMETHING... *SOMETHING HUGE.*
HIS FILES, HIS WEAPONS, HIS LEADS, HIS CLUES, HIS WITNESSES, EVERY MISSING CASE--
EVERYTHING IS HERE.
THERE ARE THE FIRST TWO DIRTY COPS WHO GOT HIM KILLED, WHOSE LIVES I'VE RUINED...
BUT *THE THIRD MAN... THE MAN WHO GOT AWAY...*
ONE, HE WORKED FOR SOMEONE...
...CALLED *KENNETH IRONS.*
AND *TWO...*

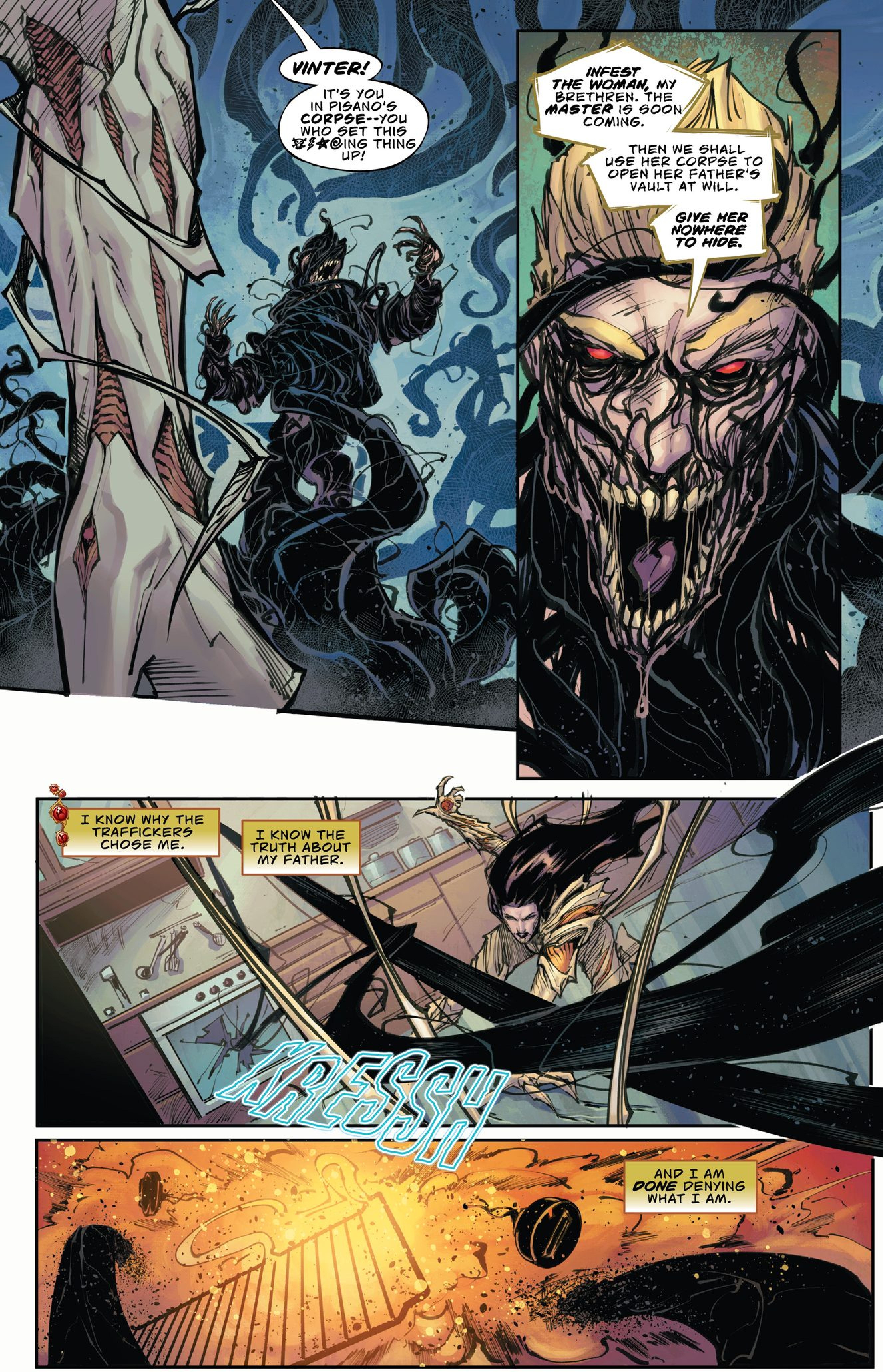

"...HE ISN'T HUMAN."
GHGGGKK!
OH, #$✲💣.
CREOSOTE LARVAE! THEY'VE INFESTED THE WHOLE ☠⚡★@ING BUILDING--
AND EVERY OUNCE OF WILL I'VE BEEN SPENDING SUPPRESSING THE WITCHBLADE FLOODS BACK INTO PLACE...

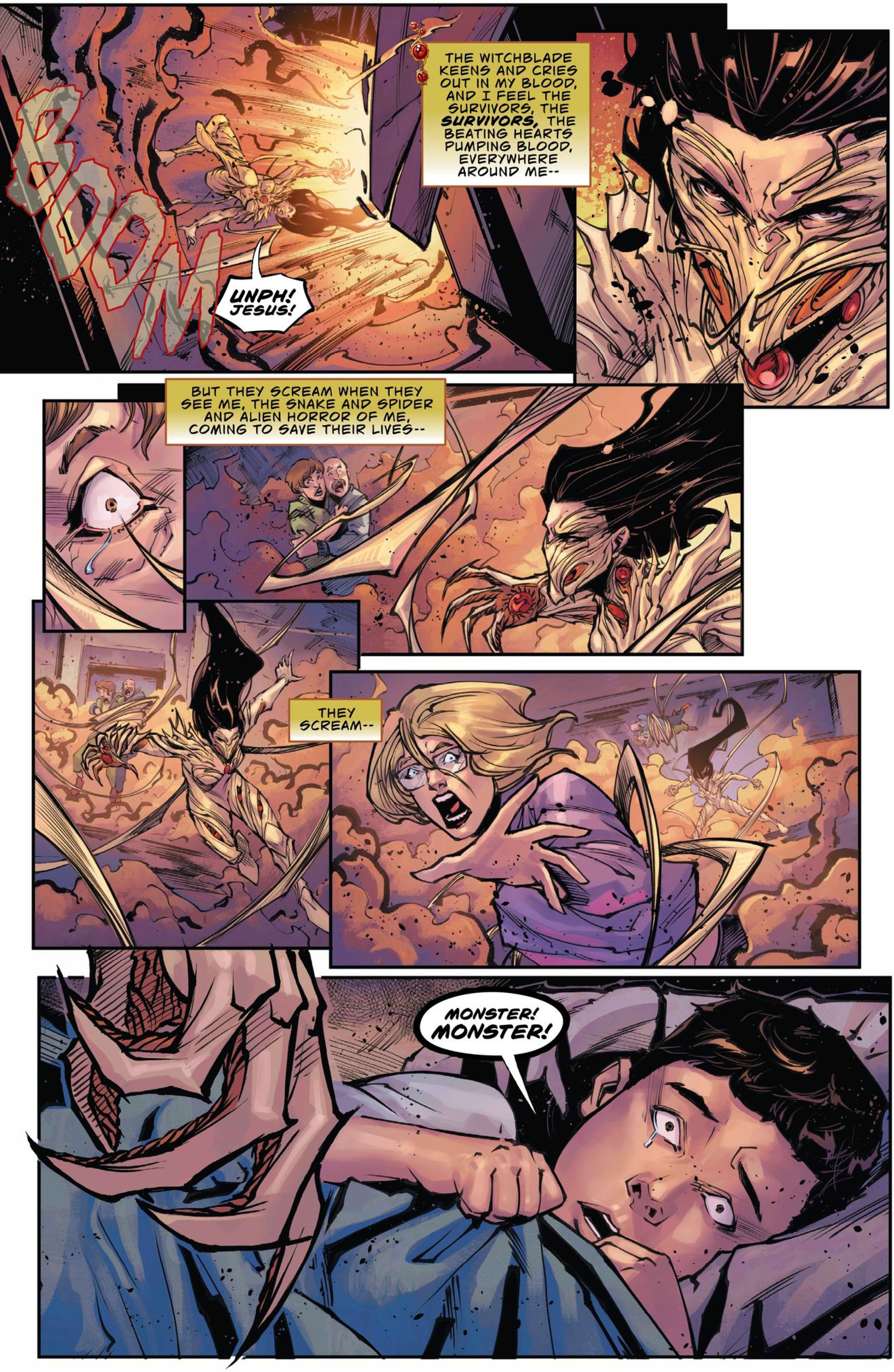

...AND EVERYTHING *EXPLODES.*

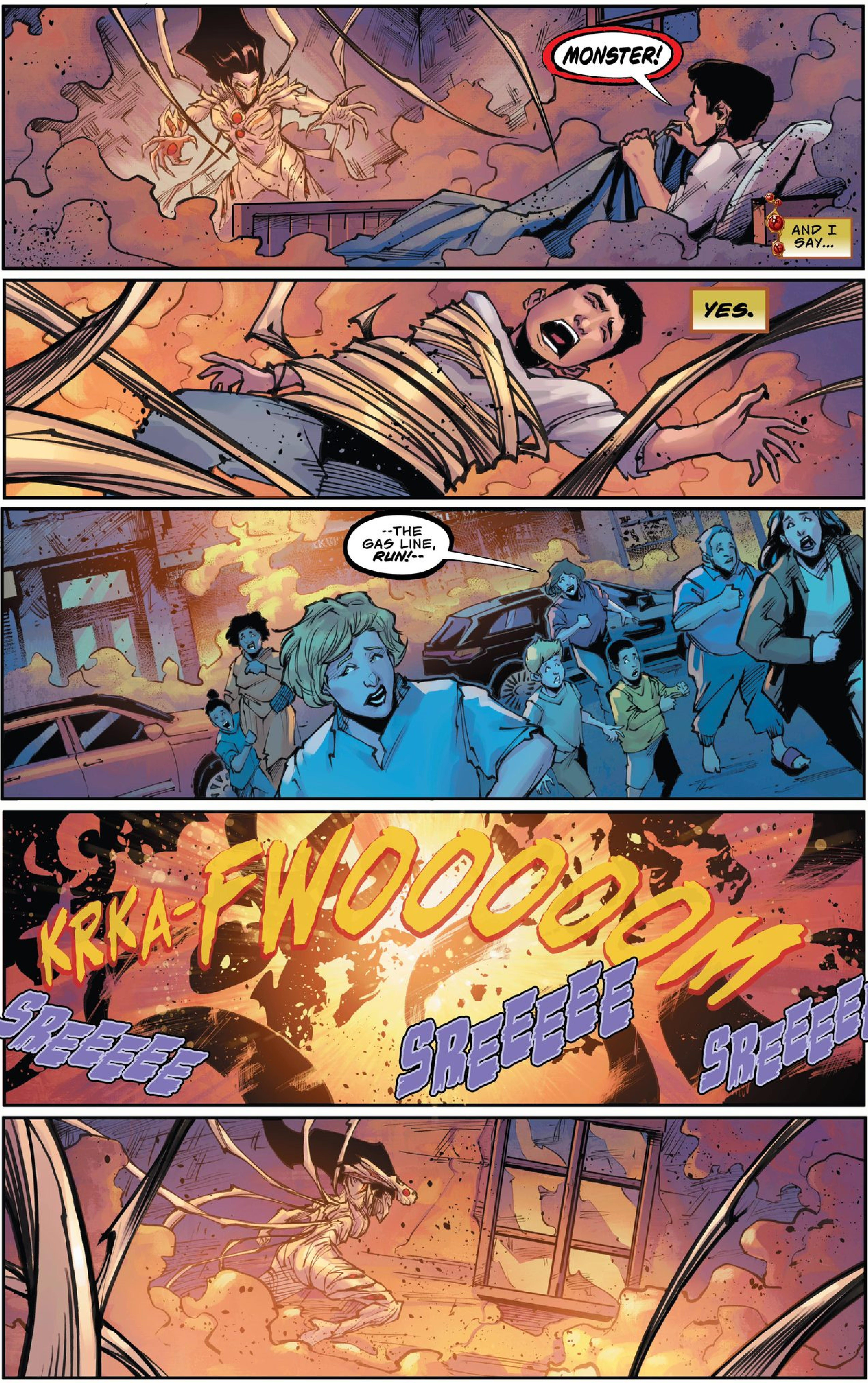

I REALIZE WHAT'S BEEN ***UNDER MY SKIN*** SINCE THE DAY THE WITCHBLADE CRASHED DOWN ON ME LIKE A ☠⚡★@ING ASTEROID.
THE CREOSOTE LARVAE ARE WRITHING, DESPERATE, TO GET TO THE OPENING--THE ENTRANCE TO ***THE HIDDEN STUDY*** MY FATHER BURIED FOR SO LONG.
WHY DO THEY WANT IT? I DON'T KNOW, NOT YET-- ***BUT THEY KNEW HOW TO GET IT.***
IAN, GET EVERYONE OUT OF THIS BUILDING, ***NOW!***
BREAK DOWN DOORS, DRAG PEOPLE OUT OF BED, ***I DON'T CARE!***
THE CREOSOTES LAY IN WAIT IN PAUL PISANO'S CORPSE, PREPARING FOR AN AMBUSH. THEY GOT ME TO BRING IN THEIR TROJAN HORSE.
THEY HAD MY FATHER'S SICKLE KEY, BUT THEY NEEDED ***ME*** TO OPEN THE LOCK.
HOW LONG HAVE THEY BEEN TRYING TO ***POSSESS*** ME?
AND THEN THE MEMORY THAT'S BOTHERED ME SINCE THE HOUR THE WITCHBLADE CRASHED DOWN ON TOP OF ME--

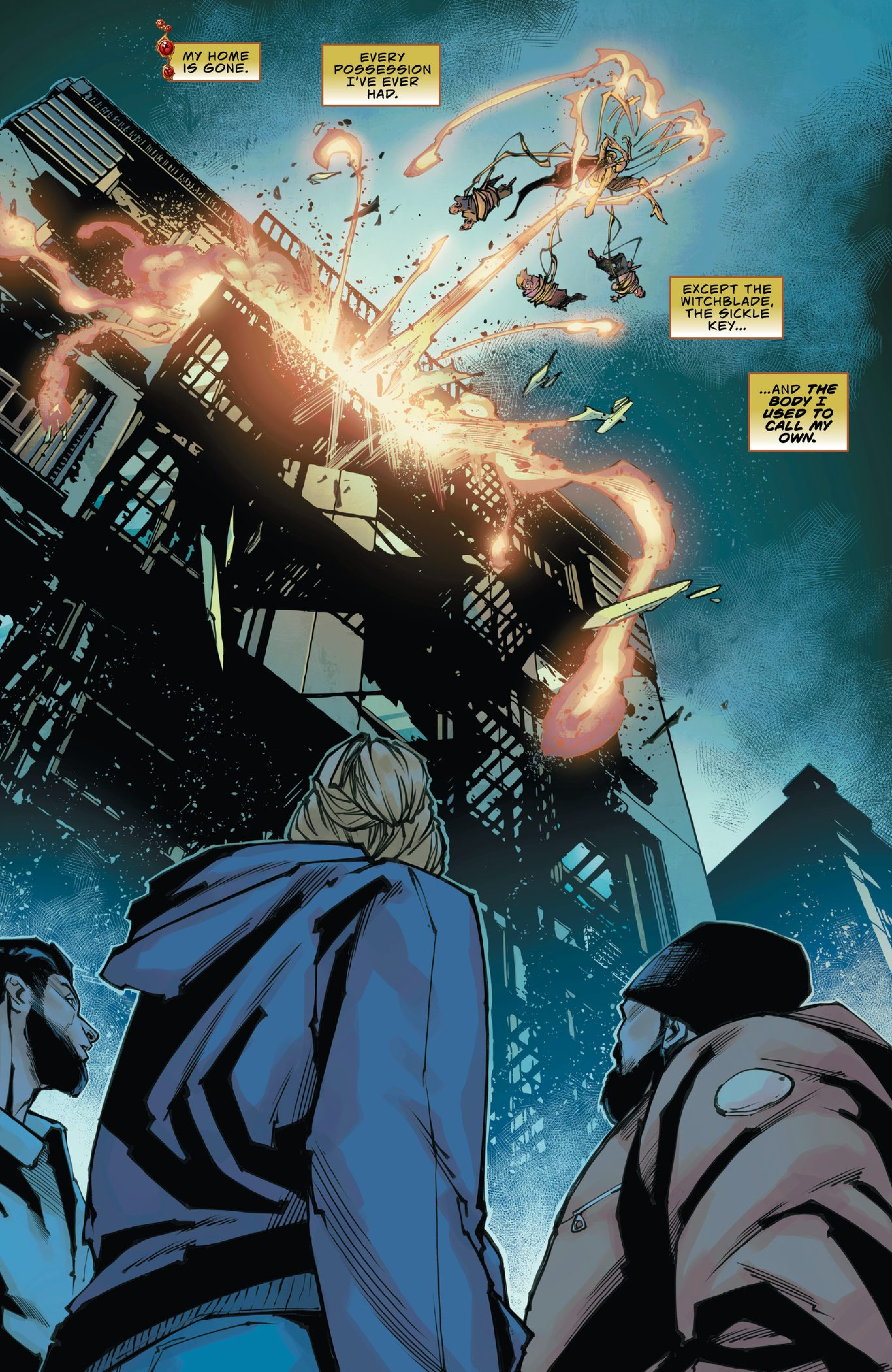

...YOU WERE **SOG.**
SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP. YES.
BLACK OPS WING OF THE US MILITARY. ***HOW DOES HE KNOW THAT?***
WHY DID THE HUMAN TRAFFICKERS ASK FOR ***ME,*** OF ALL THE COPS THEY COULD HAVE BOUGHT?
THEY KNEW YOU WERE VINCENT PEZZINI'S DAUGHTER.
THEY KNEW WHO YOU WERE.
AND ***THE RESCUED WOMEN--***
VINTER IS DEAD.
VINTER HAS THREE FACES, AND CAN CHANGE THEM AT WILL.
THE HUMAN TRAFFICKERS...ARE CREOSOTES.
THEY DEAL IN BODIES. THEY DEAL IN ***CORPSES.***

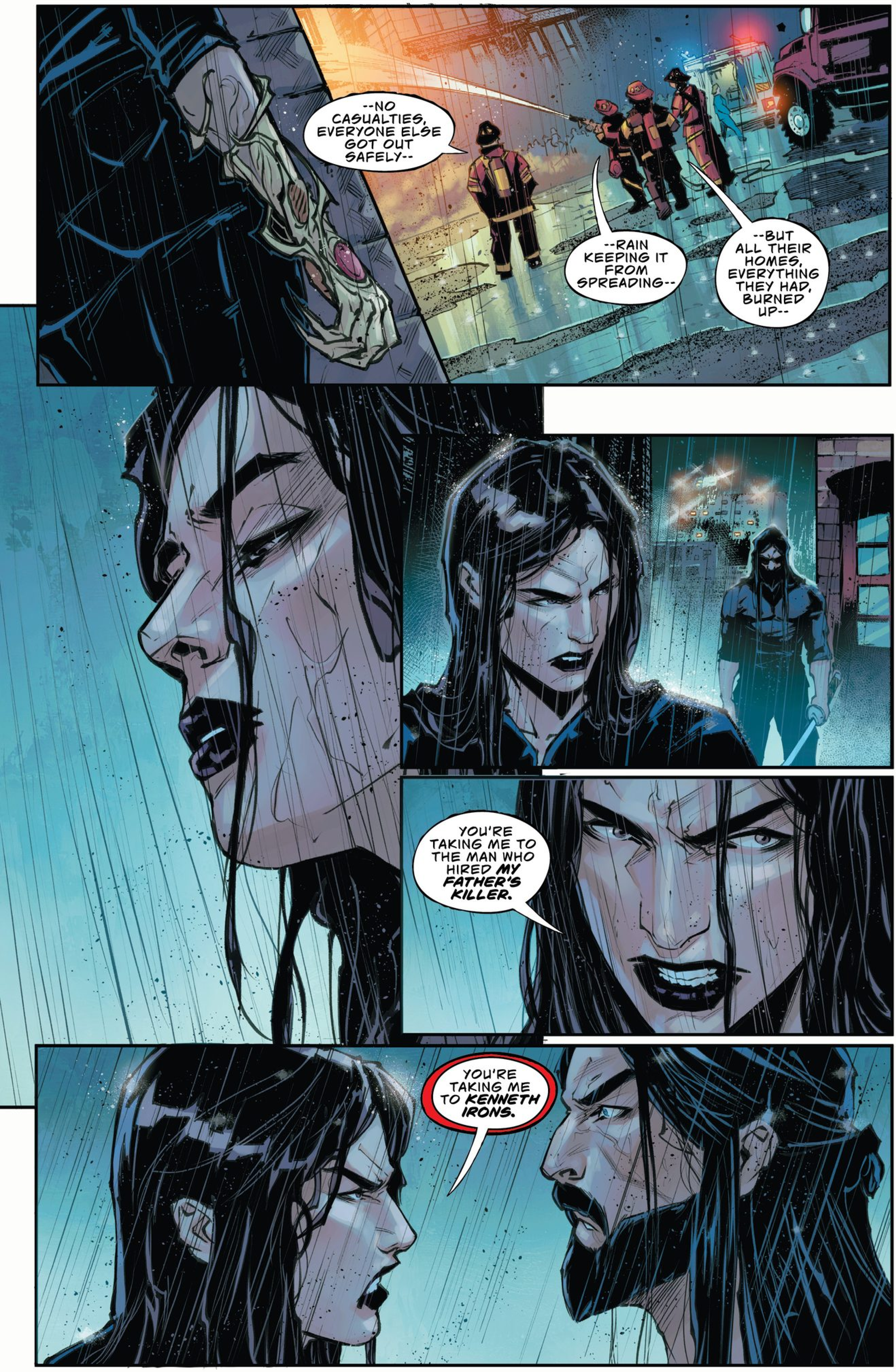

OIL.
CRUDE OIL.
NO. I WILL NOT THINK ABOUT THAT. I WILL NOT THINK ABOUT THE THINGS I DIDN'T SEE.
AND I REPRESSED THAT, TOO.
I TRAPPED EVERY BLACK, SLIMY CHUNK OF THAT DEAD SMUGGLER IN TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS AND TUPPERWARE...BUT SOME PART MUST HAVE GOTTEN AWAY TO REGENERATE.
THE NIGHTMARES. THE UNEASINESS IN MY OWN HOME.
AND I IGNORED IT. BECAUSE I WAS BEING PARANOID. BECAUSE I WAS BEING HYSTERICAL.
I REPRESSED THE WITCHBLADE, AND THEY GOT PAST MY DEFENSES--
AND I ALMOST HANDED THEM WHAT MY FATHER GAVE HIS LIFE FOR--
--ON A SILVER ☠⚡★@ING PLATTER.

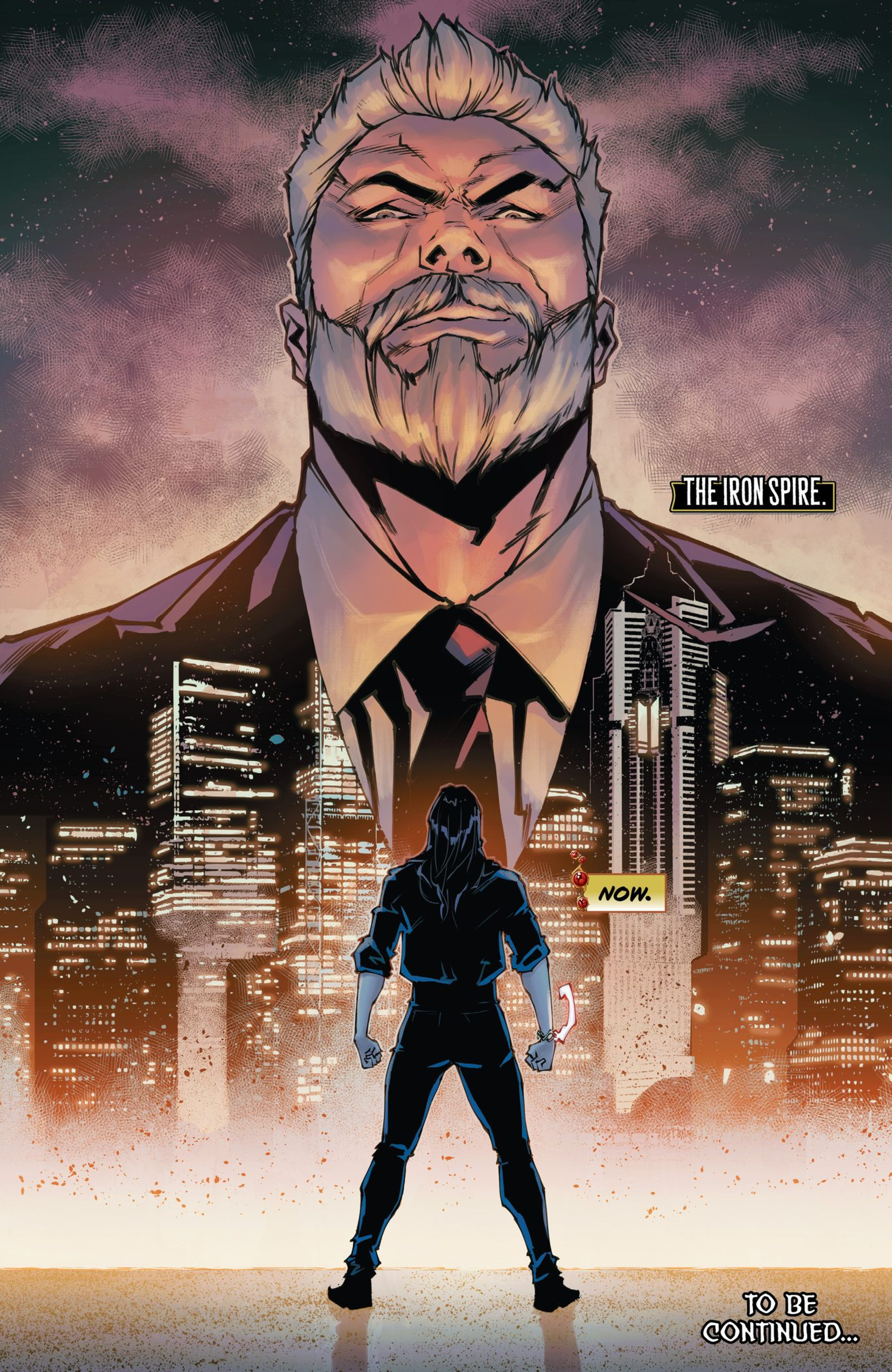

VINTER! IT'S YOU IN PISANO'S CORPSE--YOU WHO SET THIS ☠⚡★◎ING THING UP!
INFEST THE WOMAN, MY BRETHREN. THE MASTER IS SOON COMING.
THEN WE SHALL USE HER CORPSE TO OPEN HER FATHER'S VAULT AT WILL.
GIVE HER NOWHERE TO HIDE.
I KNOW WHY THE TRAFFICKERS CHOSE ME.
I KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT MY FATHER.
KRESSH
AND I AM DONE DENYING WHAT I AM.

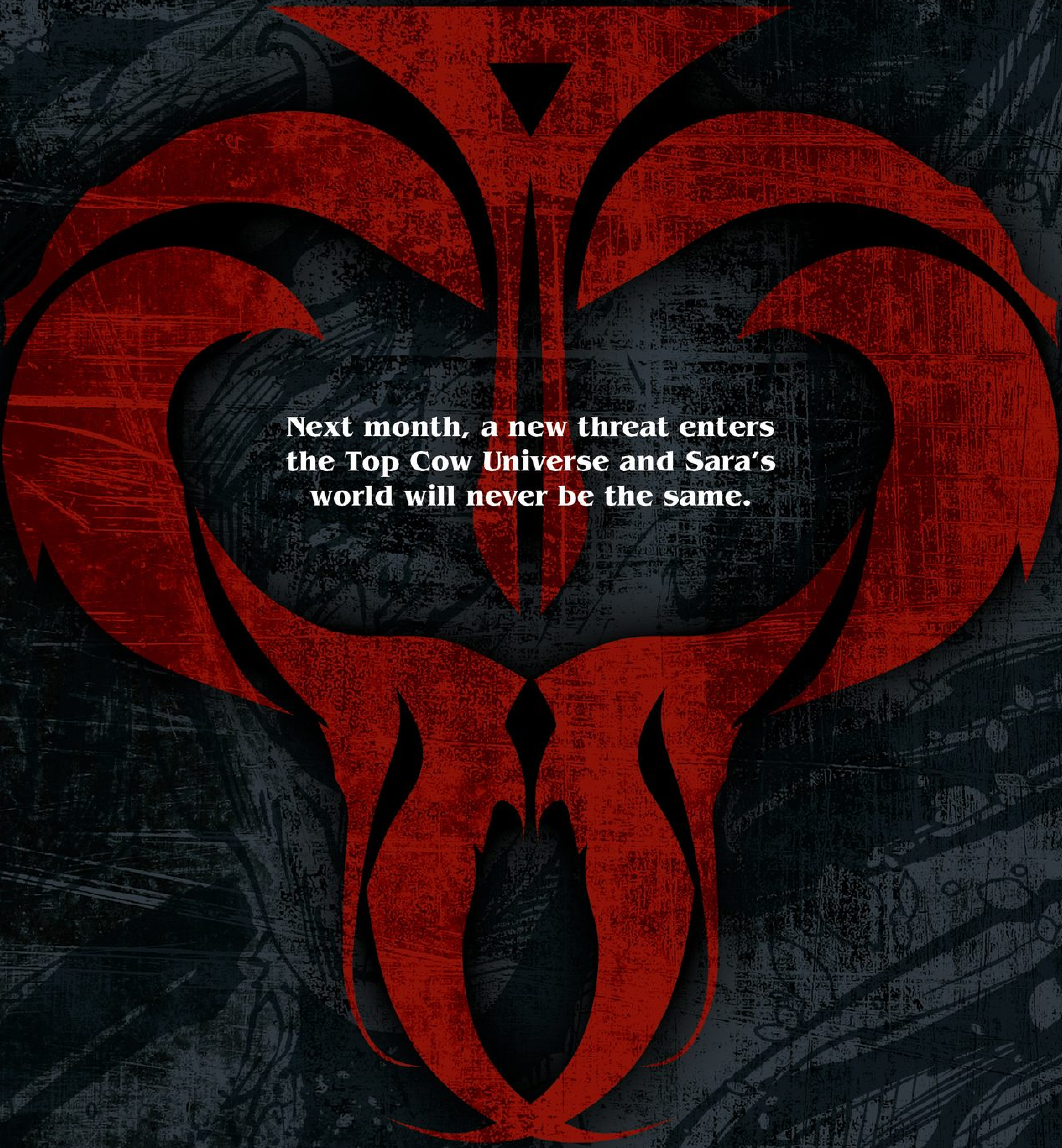

BOOM
THE WITCHBLADE KEENS AND CRIES OUT IN MY BLOOD, AND I FEEL THE SURVIVORS, THE ***SURVIVORS,*** THE BEATING HEARTS PUMPING BLOOD, EVERYWHERE AROUND ME--
UNPH! JESUS!
BUT THEY SCREAM WHEN THEY SEE ME, THE SNAKE AND SPIDER AND ALIEN HORROR OF ME, COMING TO SAVE THEIR LIVES--
THEY SCREAM--
MONSTER! MONSTER!


MONSTER!
AND I SAY...
YES.
--THE GAS LINE, RUN!--
KRKA-FWOOOOOM
SREEEEEE
SREEEEEE
SREEEEEE


MY HOME IS GONE.
EVERY POSSESSION I'VE EVER HAD.
EXCEPT THE WITCHBLADE, THE SICKLE KEY...
...AND *THE BODY I USED TO CALL MY OWN.*


--NO CASUALTIES, EVERYONE ELSE GOT OUT SAFELY--
--RAIN KEEPING IT FROM SPREADING--
--BUT ALL THEIR HOMES, EVERYTHING THEY HAD, BURNED UP--
YOU'RE TAKING ME TO THE MAN WHO HIRED ***MY FATHER'S KILLER.***
YOU'RE TAKING ME TO ***KENNETH IRONS.***


THE IRON SPIRE.
NOW.
TO BE CONTINUED...



Next month, a new threat enters
the Top Cow Universe and Sara's
world will never be the same.

The Darkness®

Jackie Estacado, this generation's bearer of The Darkness, makes his first appearance in the Top Cow Universe and his arrival will change everything!

Join us for the mayhem next month with the cover of your choice...

At right, Cover A, Art by **Marc Silvestri** and **Arif Prianto**
Lunar Order Code: 1124IM257

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Cover B, Art by
Giuseppe Cafaro and **Arif Prianto**
Lunar Order Code: 1124IM258

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THE UNBREAKABLE
WITCHBLADE
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JAN
The Darkness
IS BACK!

Cover C, Incentive Homage Variant,
Art by **Marc Silvestri**
and **Phil Smith**

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Cover D, Incentive Variant
Art by **Brett Booth**, **Sal Regla**
and **Arif Prianto**

NEXT ISSUE!

"TOMORROW IS MY TURN"

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JAN
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TOP COW UNIVERSE

In Memoriam

Brothers
50

ELENA SALCEDO

January 19th, 1975 - August 22nd, 2024

“I love people who make me laugh. I honestly think it’s the thing I like most, to laugh. It cures a multitude of ills. It’s probably the most important thing in a person.”
– Audrey Hepburn

A FEW WORDS ABOUT ELENA...

Over the course of the last few months, we've created this space to share stories of the ways Elena touched the lives of so many with a few first-hand accounts...

I can't remember when I first met Elena. Sometimes it's that way with the people you're close to, almost like they've always been in your life. We were a couple of upstate New York kids who found our way into the comic industry and who found each other.

I gave her what advice I could as she ascended in the business, though honestly, she was smart enough and tough enough that she didn't really need any words of wisdom from me. Elena was exactly who she appeared to be, with no time or tolerance for bullshit, but also blessed with immense kindness. She always listened to my angst, whether it was on the phone or in a hotel bar in the wee hours.

She called me out of the blue for what turned out to be one of our last conversations, just to see how I was doing. I happened to be walking next to the Seine in Paris, so I sat on a bench in the sun and talked to my friend. At the end, we said "I love you" to each other. I'm so glad we did. Without Elena, the world is diminished. So am I.

– Ron Marz

•••••

Elena was one of our favorite people to work with at Image, not just because she was good at what she did or because she was dependable or endlessly unflappable, but because she was such a wonderful, positive person. She was someone we all looked forward to seeing during convention season, and her absence at this past San Diego was something we all lamented. When people think of comics, they mostly think of the characters and stories first, and then the writers and artists, but there are a great many talented, hardworking people who work to make things happen behind the scenes, and among them, Elena was the very best.

– Eric Stephenson

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Oh, Elena. I put this off as long as I could.

Literally, until the last possible moment of the last possible deadline to run a remembrance for you.

I know very well that it's because it makes it all too real that you're no longer with us. Even now, I'm writing this TO you instead of ABOUT you because, honestly, any other way feels wrong.

For those who lived in your closet orbit, I know that your daily absence is all too real while I have always known you from a distance, and so, to me, you are still possibly right on the other end of the phone or email or a text. Or you are just about to show up at a convention table with Dan in tow and about to give me one of those hugs. I know that I live in a state of blissful ignorance where your shocking passing is concerned.

Even so, the last couple of months have been rough when. I almost called or emailed you SEVERAL times as I put together our first wave of fulfillment for my first personal indie project, and wanted to thank you over and over for all your help and guidance throughout, but then realized that I simply couldn't. How can that be?

You first came onto my radar in my final year with Top Cow. I knew that there was an amazing powerhouse of a woman who had started helping out with our East Coast conventions. Then, after I had left the office, I was still privy to the news of your move to Los Angeles and finally got to meet you at a show.

We bonded many times through the years over the ocean of minutiae and the depth of multi-tasking it takes to be behind the curtain at an indie publisher. We shared drinks and news and gave references and advice back and forth.

And how many times we said, "Let's get together!"

We are only half a year apart in age, Elena. So how is it that it's YOU giving me the final silent advice of "don't take a single moment for granted"?

Well, here's to you, Elena. Here's to your years of watching over both the same characters I spent many sleepless nights tending and so many new ones. Here's to your discoveries of new talent and the protection of the ones who took good care of our titles. And here's to being the new Wendy in our beloved Neverland for a time. Whatever shall we do without you?

Rest well, my friend. You are so missed.

– Renae Geerlings

Top Cow is a family. Anyone who has or does work for them can attest to that. Matt's the patriarch, overseeing everything. Marc is the cool uncle who sweeps in with the best stories and picks up the check for dinner. Elena is the mother, older sister, cool aunt, and grandma, tapping the ruler in her hand to let you know you better stay in line. She is the heart and soul, and muscle that keeps everything running, makes sure everyone is okay, and reminds us all why being a part of this family is so special.

I broke into comics through the Top Cow Talent Hunt in 2014. Working for Top Cow has been a life dream of mine since 1998, so it was incredible. And I was lucky enough that the dream continued as the Cow gave me more and more work in my first few years in the industry. And I was even more lucky to get to meet and become friends with Elena.

We met at SDCC, and it was immediately apparent that 1) Elena is the boss of SDCC, and you help her out instead of getting in her way, and 2) if you're a part of her circle, she would move heaven and earth to help you out. It's a terribly kept secret that breaking into comics is HARD. And it might even be harder to STAY in comics once you get a finger-hold in. It's scary, intimidating, and anxiety-inducing. You spend years wondering if you really belong and if anyone knows who you are. Outside of the years of friendship, the laughs, the love, and the shit-talking, one of the things I will always love Elena for is making me feel like I have a place, I have a family, and that I belong. She welcomed me into her motley crew of found family and introduced me to brilliant, kind, funny, and amazing people (least of which not being her partner and one of my favorite humans alive - Dan).

When I became overwhelmed with navigating giant conventions, and if it ever got to be too much, I just had to find Elena and say hi, give her a hug, and her presence would make everything okay. She'd offer me a water or a Red Bull from the Top Cow stash. She'd give me amazing swag and exclusives (and if anyone knew how to get exclusives at conventions, it was Elena), and I'd give her cigarettes and jelly beans.

As cons became busier and I started to find my place in the industry, we still made sure we found time to get dinner, go to a party, hang out in a hotel lobby, or even drink in a hotel room because all the lifelong goals and dreams of working in comics aside, the thing that kept me going and filled my soul was being with the people I love. I spent a few decades living in places and with people that didn't allow me to be my full self. With Elena and Dan, I was not only allowed to be me, I was welcomed and loved and laughed with.

There's not a number in the world that I could attach to that feeling to describe its value. I can't begin to imagine a world without her. I'm still in shock at her passing. But I will always have her love to hold with me - both the love I have for her and the love she showed me. And if that's the legacy you leave this world with, I'd say you've won at life. I love you, Elena, and I miss you.

– Phillip Sevy

Words genuinely can't express the sadness I feel over Elena's passing - she was such a fantastic person, and I couldn't have been luckier that she was my first editor. I've been reading about her fierceness in other posts and witnessed it first-hand every time I spoke to her about Antarctica. Her passion and compassion shone through. She was so kind, fun, and supportive to both me and my wife on our first trip to SDCC. I can't believe I won't see her again but feel incredibly fortunate to have known her over the last couple of years.

– Simon Birks

Elena was one of the people who helped me fulfill my dream of being in the San Diego Comic-Con. My family and I will be eternally grateful for her kindness and charm. There are people who appear in your life in a fleeting way and change more things than you ever thought possible, Elena was one of them."

– Willi Roberts

Elena was incredibly caring and welcoming from the get-go. Always willing to offer advice and happy to do so. She loved the creativity of comics and wanted to help make every project the best it could be. For me, she was on the other side of an email or happily chatted in a video call. She was so supportive of our book (Antarctica), and I wish we got to meet in person.

All the best,

– Lyndon White

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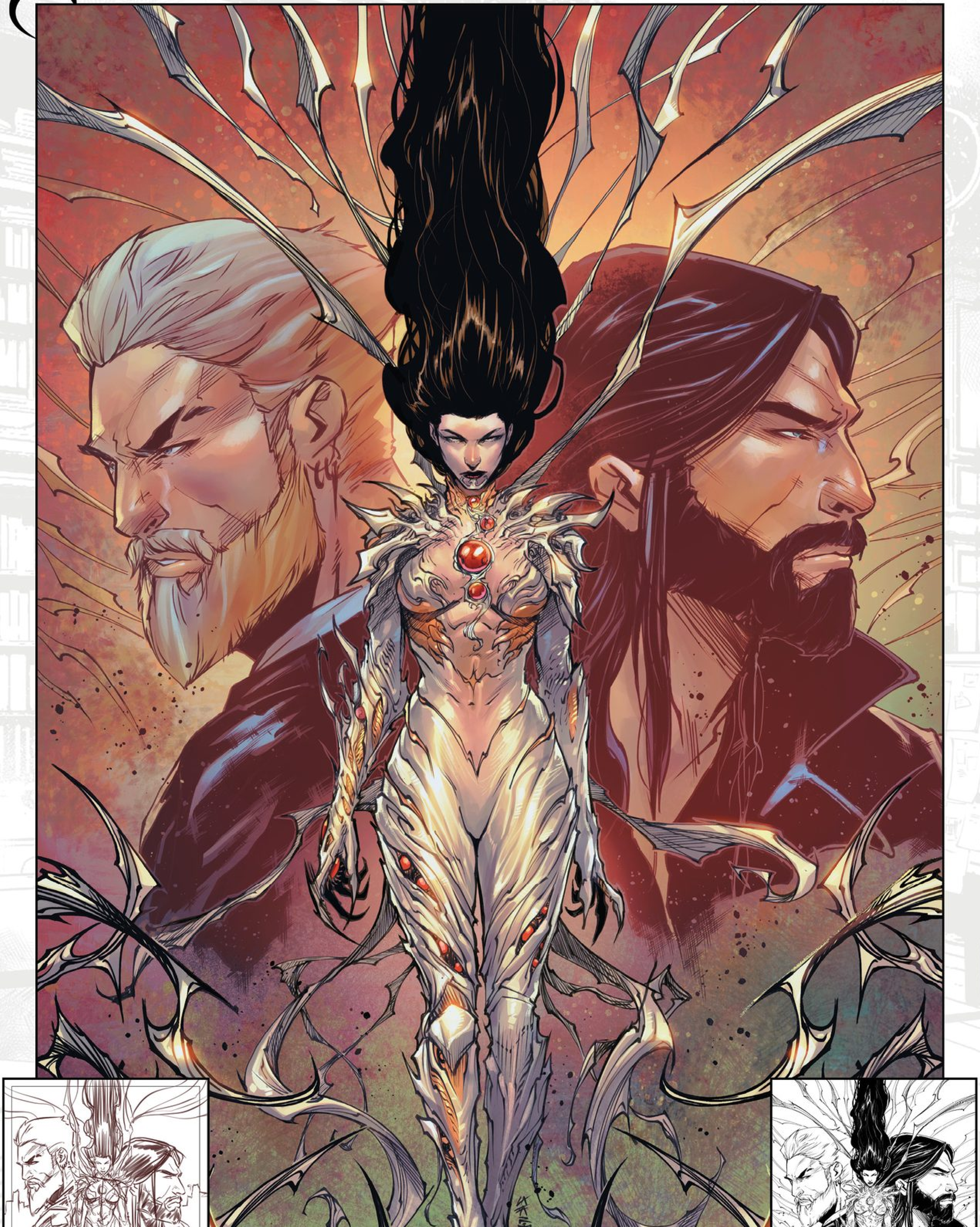
Elena will be deeply missed by everyone who met her. I met her years ago, and we instantly clicked. Conventions were always more fun because I got to catch up with her and Dan. I remember 1D10T Fest, where we messed up our hotel reservations. Elena went above and beyond to find us a place to stay. She was always there to lend a helping hand and introduced me to some amazing people in the industry. She was one of a kind. I realize that I have no pictures with her but take solace in the fact that when we were together, we were living in the moment. I'll never forget our Docusign night together.

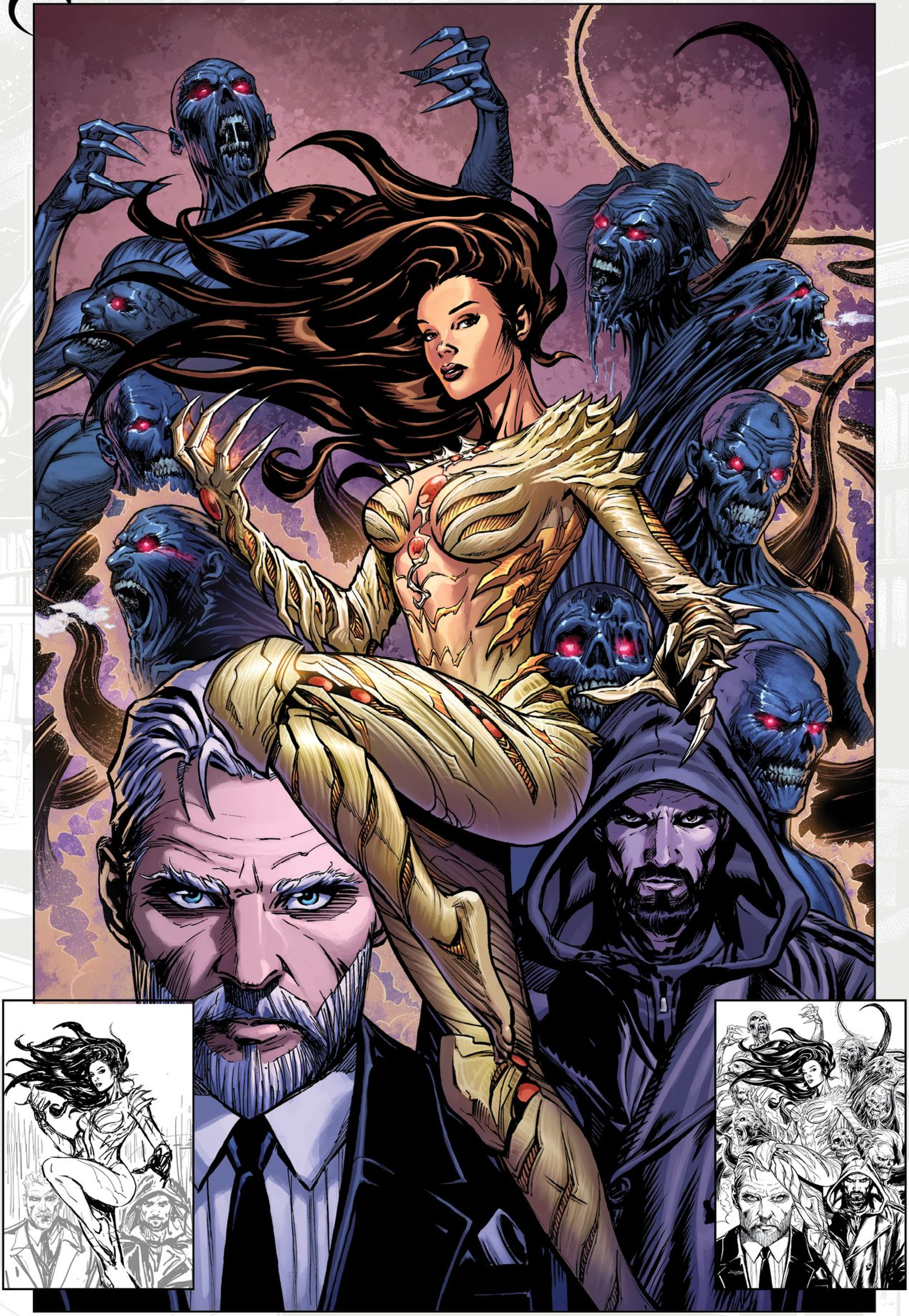
– Jose Meza

WITCHBLADE #6 Gallery • Cover A Process



Witchblade #6, Cover A, process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**

WITCHBLADE #6 Gallery • Cover B Process



Witchblade #6, Cover B, process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Joshua George** and **John Starr**

Creative Team

Marguerite Bennett is a GLAAD-nominated, New York Times-bestselling comic book writer based in Los Angeles.

Her credits include DC Comics' *Bombshells, Batwoman* and *RWBY*, along with *Animosity*, *Horde*, and *Insexts* through Aftershock Comics, and *MOTHER OF MADNESS* with *Game of Thrones* superstar Emilia Clarke for Image Comics. She has written *Might Morphin Power Ranger*s for Boom Studios, *Josie and the Pussycats* through Archie, *A-Force* and *Years of Future Past* at Marvel, *Red Sonja* and *Sheena* from Dynamite, and the indie horror darling *The Lot* for Bad Idea.

She is the lead writer of *Ark: The Animated Serie*s from Studio Wildcard.

Giuseppe Cafaro is an Italian artist who is based in Caserta, Italy. He started his professional career with the Italian publisher GGStudio, and right after, in 2012, he started to work for Aspen Comics on books like *Soulfire, Fathom: Kiani* and *Trish out of Water*, and Zenescope Entertainment as a cover artist for several years.

He worked over the last 10 years with other publishers, like DC Comics, on *Suicide Squad* and *Catwoman*, and Dynamite Entertainment, on *Red Sonja* and *Vampirella*. He also worked on graphic novels for Boom Studios based on the *Power Rangers* franchise.

In 2021, he collaborated with Tim Seeley and Steve Orlando on *LOADED BIBLE* for Image Comics. Also, he worked on some short stories for Heavy Metal with Blake Northcott and with Phil Smith for the book *Brik Jones: Attorney for Earth*, for his publisher Fighting Lion Comics.

Arif Prianto followed his dreams of working in comics and began his career as a professional colorist in 2007. Since then he has worked on titles from Top Cow Productions, Inc on *WITCHBLADE, THE DARKNESS*, for DC on *Batman & The Joker, Dark Knights of Steel,* and for Marvel on *Venom* and *Spider Woman*. He says that coloring comics is "the best job ever!"

Troy Peteri has lettered everything from *The Avengers, Iron Man, Wolverine, Amazing Spider-Man* and *X-Men* to more recent titles such as *WITCHBLADE, CYBERFORCE,* and *Batman/Wonder Woman: The Brave & The Bold*.

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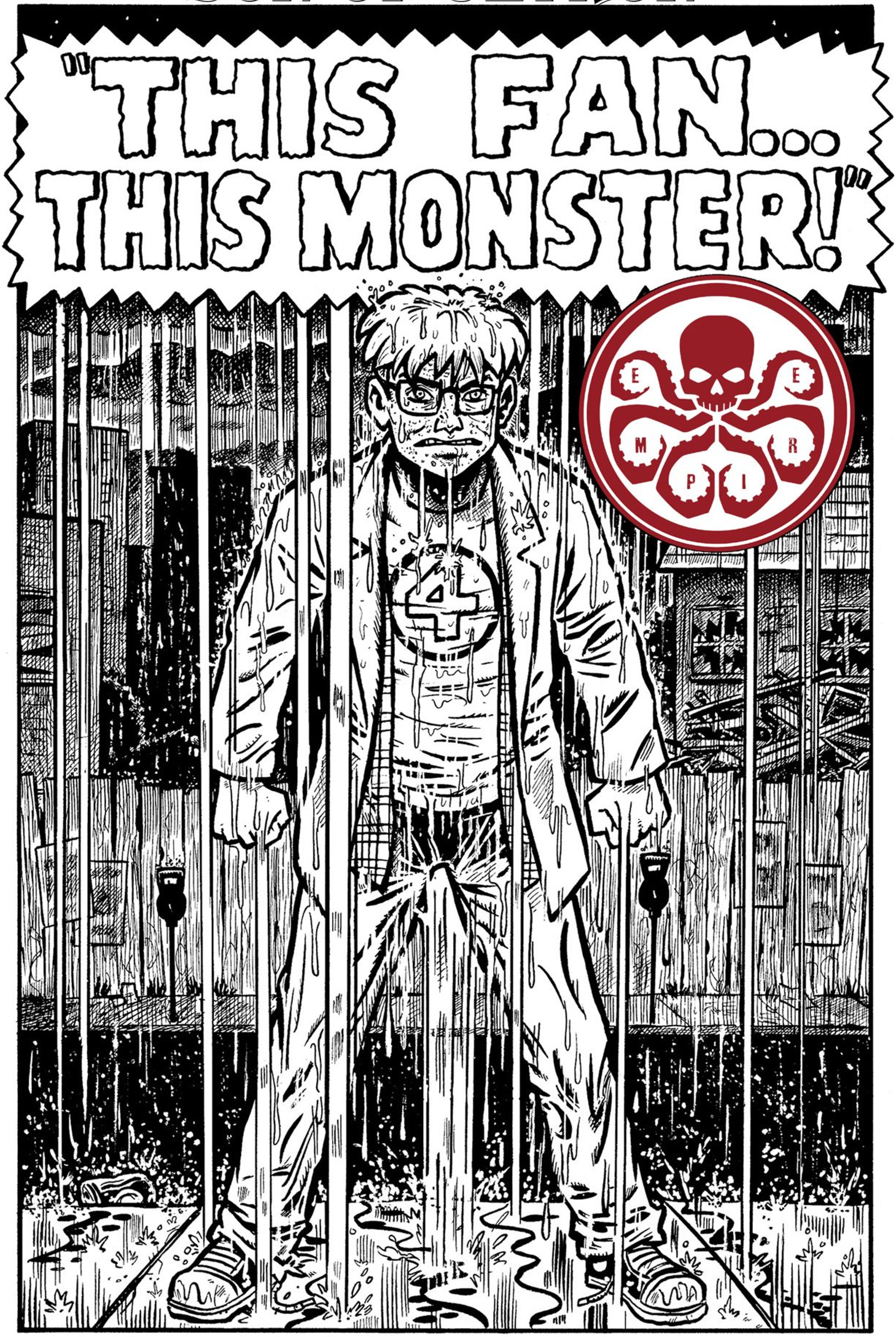
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